



THE INDEPENDENT

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THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE MAN WHO MADE THE SIMPSONS

PLUS: DAVID AARONOVITCH ON SUPER-SLOBBA, THE MYTH REVIEW PAGE 3

WHY AMERICAN SCHOOLS ARE NOT FOR MY CHILDREN



Where are the missing 30,000? The world wants to know

THE WORLD was looking for 30,000 missing refugees from Kosovo yesterday, after the Macedonian authorities evacuated at least 50,000 of them from the makeshift camp at Blace on its northern border.

While some of the refugees in Macedonia were taken to transit camps set up around the capital, Skopje, and about 14,000 were reported to have been bussed to the town of Korce, in Albania, the whereabouts of tens of thousands of them is still uncertain. "We cannot account for about 30,000 people," said Paula Ghebini, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Nato and aid agencies said they feared for the safety of tens of thousands of other refugees from Kosovo, who were waiting on Yugoslavia's frontier with Albania, who were herded back into Kosovo by Serb troops early yesterday morning.

The lightning speed of the Macedonian operation, which took place between 5pm on Tuesday night and 2am yesterday morning, local time, took everyone by surprise. A British military vehicle is understood to have trailed the convoy of 119 buses as it headed through the mountains of western Macedonia to the Albanian border crossing at Pogradec.

The UNHCR said the Macedonian authorities refused to say where the people had been taken. "We still don't know how many went where," said an UNHCR spokeswoman. "Some complained they had no idea where they were going and they were being separated from their families."

Last night the refugees who had been taken to Albania were reported to have been deposited in Korce's sports stadium.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Skopje and
EMMA DALY in Morini

um. There were unconfirmed reports of others heading for Greece and Turkey.

Armed Macedonian police and soldiers rounded up the refugees at Blace and led them on to buses. "It was very quick," said Sheri Fink, a medic with the aid group Physicians for Human Rights, who saw the evacuation. "None of the people knew where they were going. There was no one from the international community to see what was happening."

Nicola Boyle, a medical co-ordinator with the Interna-

my daughters have gone too and so has my 13-year-old grandson. He is blind and deaf. What has happened to him I dare not think."

There were strong suspicions that the Macedonians had coordinated their move with neighbouring Yugoslavia.

Belgrade closed the frontiers with Macedonia and Albania just as the Blace camp was being emptied and forced thousands of refugees waiting at the Yugoslav-Albanian border crossing at Morini back into Kosovo. Like their fellow Slavs in Serbia, the Macedonians have no love for their Albanian minority and they have no wish to see it numerically boosted by an influx from Kosovo.

At Morini yesterday a sinister silence enveloped the border post. The only things left moving were plastic water bottles and other debris blowing about in the wind. Avni Brahimli, who crossed just before the border closed, lost track of his relatives when they were sent back into Kosovo by Yugoslav border guards. "The Serb soldiers sent back all the people," he said. "They just forced the people to turn around."

A total mystery surrounds the fate of the thousands of Kosovar Albanians who had lined up along the road from the western city of Prizren to Morini. On Tuesday, the queue of at least 20,000 people had stretched some 18 miles back into Kosovo.

One group of 25 people who succeeded in crossing at 5am, long after the border appeared to have closed, said the route they travelled on was deserted. "They did not see any people," said a UNHCR spokesman, Jamie Franquin. "They saw a lot of cars and tractors but in

the people, nobody." Nato and aid agencies said they feared for the refugees' safety. "Apparently the Serbs want to keep them - to do what?" asked Mr Franquin.

"The Serbs have more or less destroyed all their villages, and I don't think they are planning to build a Inter-Continental Hotels to house them."

The camp at Blace, on the Macedonia-Kosovo border, before (right) and (above) after the refugees were evacuated

John Voos

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BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

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Mr Kyprianou said Slobodan Milosevic "has conveyed to me his willingness to discuss the issue of releasing the three American captives and to hand

them over to us". He left Larnaca airport for Athens and then Belgrade yesterday. Greece was expected to provide an aircraft to fly to the Yugoslav capital, but Mr Kyprianou was asked by the US to delay his departure.

The mission presented Nato with a difficult decision about whether to carry on bombing even as Mr Kyprianou was on his way to Belgrade. He requested a 24-hour ceasefire. The US warned him not to travel last night, and said it wanted to talk to him before he left. The allies were also scrambling to ensure that the meet-

ing did not turn into an occasion for Mr Milosevic to negotiate over the conflict.

Cyprus has sided with Belgrade in its war with Nato and Mr Kyprianou said he hoped his visit could help to broker an end to the conflict. "I believe, I hope, my mission will succeed. If it does I think it will help improve the climate, it will satisfy the American people... and will be proof of the Yugoslav President's commitment to peaceful processes," he said.

The US was very cautious, saying there had been "some contact" with Mr Kyprianou but playing down hopes of a rapid breakthrough.

Belgrade when he was President from 1978 to 1988.

Mr Kyprianou said there might be preconditions for the release of the soldiers, however, which could be a stumbling block for any deal. In particular, Nato ruled out any attempt to free the men by trading them for an end to the bombing of Yugoslavia. "As for paying a price, of course not, the mission goes on," said Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman.

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Canada prepares ground troops

THE FIRST indications that Nato might be planning to put ground forces into Kosovo came last night as the alliance confronted the massive outflow of refugees.

The Canadian government said it was considering the possibility that ground forces might go into Yugoslavia even without a peace agreement. It was the first time a Nato government has publicly acknowledged it might be necessary for troops to fight their way in to return and resettle refugees.

"The plan has been... to bring the Yugoslav government to the table, to have a peace

plan and, on that basis, for ground troops to then go in to ensure the security of the people of Kosovo," said Art Eggleton, the Defence Minister.

"Now, if that's not going to be possible, and I think as we see with each day the Milosevic government is not indicating they're favourable to doing that, then certainly Nato has to look at other options," he added. "And the military planners and the Canadian military are in the course of looking at other options as to where

ground troops might be involved."

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KOSOVO EMERGENCY HELP SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES

Forced to flee their homes, the refugee children of Kosovo are cold, exhausted and terrified. Disease is spreading fast. Will you help the innocent children caught up in this conflict?

UNICEF is delivering emergency aid and vital medical supplies to the families that are fleeing Kosovo in search of safety. But we must do more - and fast.

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Proud? No, but there's still defiance in the air

NIGHTS FALL early in Belgrade and I am used to my little room with its worn red carpet and gaudy oil painting of a full-bosomed Serb mother, her arm round a child whose ear is weirdly poking from the top of his head.

Now the government has ordered restaurants to close by 7pm, I squirrel myself away by the old wooden shutters and read *Arna Korenina* for the second time, or watch Belgrade television's interminable 15-year-old serial about Vuk Karadjic, the Serb epic poet and language reformer, and the First Serbian Revolt. In last night's episode, two of Vuk's friends had their heads chopped off by the Turks, while a priest called Hadziruvic was slowly garrotted under the approving eye of the local vizier. He took a minute to suffocate. After half an hour, you can see why Serb viewers might come to hate Muslims. Tolstoy has nothing on this.

So some evenings, I just wander the Kneza Mihailova, the pedestrian precinct where the young – before the next night of bombing – make their *idu ruku pod ruke*, their arm-in-arm walks past the 19th-century buildings, sandblasted into beauty 15 years ago when Belgrade thought it might become a tourist resort. There are plenty of pseudo-19th-century street lamps, though it's doubtful – as the *Rough Guide to Yugoslavia* points out – if the capital of Serbia ever truly looked like this.

It's an odd sensation walking down this street, being British and speaking English in a city under mighty bombardment by Britain and America. So I don't speak. I avoid Serbs who might ask me for a light or wish to express their views on the vandalised British Council offices halfway down the street. Instead, I wonder what they would think – especially the black-dressed skinheads with their tiger badges, who worship Vojslav Seselj and his chums –

ROBERT FISK
IN BELGRADE

if they knew that the man in the tatty brown coat had a passport, which proclaims that "Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires in the Name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance".

When the air raid sirens whine, I don't think the "let or hindrance" bit counts for very much. So I prowl the bookshops. There's plenty of Ivo Andric, and several books by Vlada Urosevic, the Skopje writer, and I spot a Serb translation of my old friend Anna Karenina in a window full of coffee-table volumes on Serb monasteries. Each of the latter has stuck to its cover the symbol of the black-and-white target that is now worn by half the Serbs of Belgrade. Nato is trying to bomb every human being in the city, if you believe these badges. It is trying to bomb every monastery. It hopes to destroy every bookshop in Kneza Mihailova, if you accept the message of the target banners taped to the sides of buildings.

Some of the shopfronts have already been destroyed, though not by Nato. The American Cultural Centre has been smashed up. On the wall of the French embassy, someone has written "Les Couches" – which doesn't say much for the influence of the French Cultural Centre, also vandalised, down the road. In the Air France office, someone has painted "Non Passer" behind the ticket desk. Belgrade is

now civil war Madrid. And the Serbs are all victims. Who will Nato bomb tonight?

In the abandoned restaurant of my hotel, a table stands on the spot where a German bomb fell in 1941. "We didn't defuse it – we left it buried here and wrote the date on a stone above it," the waiter eagerly tells me. How typical of the Serbs, I say to myself. They don't destroy bombs; they cover them up. Outside, a Yugoslav soldier passes me, a bandage round his head, tiredness in his eyes, hunched under a kitbag.

I have found a pretty little chemist's shop in the Kneza Mihailova, and spotted a shirt I might buy later this week if I can persuade my translator to do the talking. And having managed to avoid reading it so far, I'm tempted to buy the English edition of David Owen's Bosnian memoirs, which I have spotted in the window of another bookshop. But what happens when the shop assistant asks my nationality? Or when the other shoppers take notice?

I am being too hard. Most Serbs are kind to the *novinars*, the foreign journalists, though they are convinced that editors change our reports or threaten to fire us if we don't condemn Serbia. There's a military press centre where police colonels bid good morning to the citizens of Nato nations. I even have accreditation as a correspondent from *Velika Britanija*, with "War Press Card" printed beside my name. In the foreign ministry, in restaurants, in interviews around Belgrade, I am treated not as an enemy but as a guest who has been misled by Nato propaganda. And the thought crosses my mind – how would a Serb journalist be received in London if the Yugoslav air force had just fired missiles at the Home Office?

Of course, we are not slaughtering the people of Kosovo – even if our behaviour in 18th-century Ireland had a lot in common with the MUP's activities in Serbia's southern

province – and we don't have the reputation that the Serbs acquired in Bosnia. When she heard the name "Srebrenica", my translator had no idea what it was, or where it was. She was not being dishonest. Yes, there are those who know what is happening in Kosovo. "It is true, and I am truly sorry for this," a Serb friend said to me when I asked him about the "ethnic cleansing" of the Albanians. But he lowered his voice when he said that. Some people know. Some people don't want to know. Others can't believe the truth. Others have never heard it.

I cross the road at the end of the Kneza Mihailova into Kale-megdan Park. Two old men are playing chess with massive wooden chess-pieces, watched by friends. Children are chasing each other in a dirty plastic "jungle" playground near an empty fountain. A couple – she high cheekbones, he a little haughty (I cannot help but think of Anna Karenina and

Vronsky) – walk past the statue erected in honour of the French Army in the 1914-18 war. "Shame" is written over a frieze depicting frozen-faced poissus, stone bayonets fixed back in the age of Verdun.

They don't look proud on the Kneza Mihailova. But there is a kind of defiance in the way the couples walk through the park, the determination of the old men playing chess. At one end, the smell of freshly cut grass drifts around the old Austrian fort, but I can smell smoke too, the same oily breeze that has drifted over Belgrade since Nato bombed the thermal heating plant across the River Sava. Two tall men in white socks are walking back down the *Ulica* – perhaps because of

the socks, I suspect they are plain-clothes cops – and I avoid the crowd reading the long political tract on the pavement, another condemnation of "Nato-pact aggression".

Yes, for the people here, that is what the war is; unprovoked, bestial, vicious. If Afghans are fleeing Kosovo – and how many of those coffee-table books show Serb Kosovo monasteries on their covers? – they are not doing so because they are the victims of Serb atrocities, but because Nato is bombing them too.

Not once – ever – does it occur to anyone that the Serbs might be driving the Albanians out of Kosovo. The Serbs are victims. Victims of Hitler. Victims of the brutal Turks who sliced and gutted their way through 18th-century Serbia. Victims of Nato. Does a society like this have to be reconstructed? Or does that democratic seed planted in the great demonstrations two years ago live on beneath the ice?

I smell the grass again and look in the grey evening light across the Sava and the mirror of the Danube to the start of the great Vojvodina plain. What was it they used to sing two years ago, the tune they still hum sometimes in the Kneza Mihailova, and which I think of more and more as I wander about this dingy, stubborn, grimy city? "It is spring – but alas, I live in Serbia."



Tornado pilots keep cool as Serb action hots up

AIR OFFENSIVE

BY KIM SENGUPTA in Bruggen

IT'S MESMERISING, a spectacular firework display like a Fourth of July or Fifth of November celebration. You can see them coming up and they burst all around you, underneath you, behind you. There is intensity and colour; it's quite a show, but it does concentrate your mind."

These are the impressions which will remain for ever with an RAF pilot who faced anti-aircraft fire while leading a Tornado raid on Serbian positions. The Tornado GR1s based at RAF Bruggen in Germany had taken part in some of the most dangerous missions in the Kosovo conflict. On Tuesday night, they struck at the Yugoslav army headquarters in Kosovo, hitting barracks, fuel dumps and, it is believed, tanks and armoured cars. In Nato's declared aim of the use of air power to halt Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing, this was one of the most important engagements in the war so far.

Among the airmen at Bruggen there is no triumphalism. The mood is one of

reflection: they are bombing a European capital in a European war, just as some of their fathers might have done in their time. So far, all the aircraft have returned home safely. But the servicemen here know this is going to be a long haul, and that the Serbs have been working with the Iraqi high command on how to counter allied attacks. And as the missions involve low flying, planes could be shot down, as in the Gulf war.

"Yes, I was surprised that we are taking part in this action so long after the fall of the Berlin Wall," said the pilot, who served in the Gulf.

"We are surprised, just like the public. But in the unfolding action it is a time of apprehension for their partners. Rosemary Bogg, who has two sons, Alex, nine, and Douglas, six, is married to a flight lieutenant.

She said: "The atmosphere here will make people get closer. I live next door to someone whose husband is flying at the moment, and it's difficult to sleep. We feel anxious until we

hear the door go at night and we know he's safe."

The German air force has also been flying missions. Many are against anti-aircraft artillery and missile launchers.

In Bonn, the German defence staff officer, Commander Axel Stephenson, said it was a natural progression for the Luftwaffe to take part in hostilities. "We have been based in Piacenza (northern Italy) in a support capacity and it is a logical step to use our weaponry. We shall just have to be professional about this."

The Luftwaffe has taken part in 64 missions over Kosovo and Serbia, sometimes in support of other allied aircraft. The pilots mainly used their Harp (High Speed Anti-Aircraft Missiles) and have notched up one of the best strike rates. The Germans have also been flying in almost half of the supplies for the refugees. In one 24-hour period this week, 13 Luftwaffe relief planes flew to Skopje, the Macedonian capital, compared with eight from France, three from the UK and one from the US.

TIMETABLE: DAY 15

Wednesday 7 April
12.05am Yugoslavia closes the border point of Jazinc and apparently starts sending back into Kosovo thousands of refugees.
1am Nato strikes a fuel storage facility near Pristina airport. Garages and a warehouse at an oil refinery in Novi Sad are destroyed.
2am US calls for Belgrade to

"release" Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.
6am Macedonia has emptied border camps of Kosovo refugees overnight.
10am Yugoslav minister Milan Bozic says Nato air strikes have driven 50,000 from Kosovo into Serbia.
11.50am UN secretary-general Kofi Annan hopes Yugoslavia's ceasefire in

Kosovo is first step to peace.
1.10pm Over 100 fighter planes take off from Italy.
1.30pm UN war crimes prosecutors call on Britain, the US and Nato to provide evidence of alleged war crimes in Kosovo.
1.45pm KLA reports the discovery in Cetin, central Kosovo, of 51 bodies of ethnic Albanians.

3pm UN refugee agency says 35,000 Kosovo refugees who disappeared from Blace border between Yugoslavia and Macedonia are still unaccounted for.
5.45pm Albania allows Nato to operate in the country, paving the way for the US Apache attack helicopters and 6,000 troops.

KOSOVO CRISIS

Tragedy in the Balkans

A massive humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people are in urgent need of help – your help. Those fleeing Kosovo have nothing and local people trying to help in neighbouring regions are overwhelmed. They and those left behind are in desperate need.

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IND 774/99

Recluse who terrorised high street

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A 61-YEAR-OLD unemployed man admitted in court yesterday that he was the elusive "Mardi Gra" bomber behind a three-year terror campaign aimed at extorting hundreds of thousands of pounds from high street banks and shops.

Edgar Pearce, a self-styled property developer from Chiswick, west London, pleaded guilty to 20 charges, including blackmail attempts on Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's supermarket. In all, he was responsible for an estimated 36 attacks involving home-made bombs against randomly selected individuals and firms.

He was finally captured by a combination of brain power and manpower. In one of the biggest surveillance operations ever mounted, up to 1,000 officers from Scotland Yard and the National Crime Squad kept watch for the blackmailer at hundreds of cash-point machines.

Pearce got the idea for his extortion plot from a daytime television programme about Rodney Witchelo, a former policeman who tried to extort £2m from Heinz. Witchelo was jailed for 17 years in 1990 for spiking jars of baby food on supermarket shelves with bleach and razor blades. Pearce copied one of Witchelo's ideas - demanding cash cards with special PIN numbers that would allow him to withdraw £10,000 a day for an unlimited period from automatic cash machines. He also obtained details from books and television pro-



A police video (left) of Edgar Pearce carrying a bag with a bomb; Joan Kane (centre), who unwittingly carried a bomb on two buses in west London after a shopping trip; a replica of a video case that fired a shotgun cartridge when opened; a sticker released by police (top right); a message to the bomber placed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad; and a Mardi Gra 'calling card'.

grammes on building explosive devices.

He first struck in December 1994, when packages wrapped neatly in Christmas paper were sent to six west London branches of Barclays Bank in

video boxes which bore a Reservoir Dogs-style picture and the words, "Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience". Inside each was a simple trigger device which automatically detonated a shotgun cartridge as

the box was opened. The first two went off, causing slight burns to employees, but the others were defused. Barclays was targeted because several years earlier Pearce and his wife had got into a dispute with the bank.

Over the next 14 months, the bomber struck another 19 times. Most devices were sent to addresses in London, directly to the bank, its officials or companies connected with them, or placed in telephone

boxes outside banks. The second phase involved targeting members of the public at random, selected from the phone directory, while a third phase involved random businesses. Targets included a camera shop in Kent, a farm and a tax inspector in Cambridgeshire.

Pearce drew on his background in advertising to produce a snappy "calling card".

The name "Mardi Gra" was chosen because in French it means "Fat Tuesday": his first wave of blackmail demands had been sent out on a Tuesday.

Police were baffled about the motive until Barclays received a letter signed "Mardine Graham", demanding £10,000 a day for an unlimited period via cash cards. The bank was told to communicate through the small ads column in a national newspaper. An early plan to lure the bomber into a trap failed when Barclays said it was having trouble complying with his demands. Mardi Gra cut off communications and started a fresh wave of attacks using more sophisticated bombs.

Pearce next turned his attention to Sainsbury's, claiming he feared Barclays would start closing branches. The supermarket had just lost its position as the market leader and was therefore "vulnerable".

He struck at three branches in November 1997. Curtis Dennis

March 1998. His thigh was injured and he had to give up his sporting ambitions.

Detectives became increasingly frustrated with the lack of clues. The bomber went to extraordinary lengths to avoid detection: he used disguises and constantly varied his methods of attack.

There was a false alarm three weeks before he was caught, when armed police officers arrested a man spotted placing boxes around a Sainsbury's store in west London. He turned out to be a rat catcher.

Pearce's downfall came after he arranged for a series of cash cards designed to look like a promotional gimmick to be given away with a magazine. Although anyone could buy the cards, only the police and the blackmailer knew their real purpose. More than £20,000 was paid into a secret account able to be accessed by the cardholders at several banks and building societies, with a daily withdrawal limit of £2,000.

Cash points in the west and south London areas were fitted with surveillance cameras. Teams of plain-clothes officers from the Metropolitan Police and the newly formed National Crime Squad kept a 24-hour watch from hidden posts.

The account was linked to a computer that sounded an alarm within seconds of Mardi Gra tapping in the PIN number.

Pearce managed to pocket only £700 before he was

trapped. On the evening of 28 April last year, moments after he withdrew £250 at Whitton, near Twickenham in south-west London, he was arrested.

Police saw Pearce - wearing a wig and beard - get into a red Vauxhall Senator, which was promptly hemmed in by unmarked police cars. The £250 taken from the cash machine was seized. At 1 o'clock that night, armed police broke down the door of Pearce's home. They found two home-made pipe bombs, a pistol, 272 shotgun cartridges, springs, nails, and video boxes. Disguises were also discovered.

Pearce pleaded guilty yesterday to nine counts of blackmail, three offences involving explosives, one count of wounding, three assault and four firearms offences. He will be sentenced next week on a date to be decided.

His brother Ronald, 67, was arrested with him. But yesterday the charges against the older Pearce were dropped. He was, however, jailed for 12 months, the length of time he has been in custody, after he pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of a stun gun.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Rees, who led the hunt for Mardi Gra, said last night: "This was a callous, calculating individual who was wholly indifferent to the possibility the devices might cause death or serious injuries. It was a miracle no-one was killed."

Mardi Gra bombings plotted in greenhouse

BY JASON BENNETTO

ELDERLY AND balding, Edgar Pearce is an unlikely-looking master criminal.

But in many ways Pearce, 61, fitted the stereotype of the deranged but intelligent recluse who spends years trying to beat the system and devise the perfect crime.

He was motivated by money, obsession, a desire for notoriety and the satisfaction of outwitting Scotland Yard's finest while terrorising large sections of London.

As always in these cases, the unmasking of Pearce as the man behind the Mardi Gra came as a shock to neighbours and relatives.

Pearce was described as an unfriendly, reclusive man who drank heavily and quarrelled about the parking space in front of his home. He was nasty to children, had bizarre eating habits, but was considered "intelligent and frustrated".

Unemployed, at one point he worked for his younger brother, Philip, who runs an advertising firm in south-east London, although the brothers have not seen each other for more than nine years. Later, he described himself as a property developer.

Pearce's three-bedroomed house in Chiswick, west London, is split into three bed-sits. He lived in the downstairs front room and rented out the three upstairs bedrooms.

One lodger, Graham Hunt, described him as "well educated and very knowledgeable about world events and the news".

Mr Hunt said: "He drinks

vegetables. It's like a normal person's Sunday lunch, but he has it for breakfast with a glass or two of red wine."

Much of Pearce's plotting took place in the greenhouse at the end of his garden where he would work until 1am.

Ten years ago, after 30 years of marriage, he separated from his wife, Maureen, 57, who lives in Welling, Kent.

His daughter, Nicola, 26, refused to believe her father was the Mardi Gra bomber. "My dad shops at Sainsbury's because he likes their food. He doesn't go there to bomb them," she said.

"He's a gentle man," she added. "He's not screwed up in the head at all."

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High-living college in fees fiddle must repay £9m to government

BY STEVE BOGGAN

A COLLEGE has been ordered to repay £9m in government fees after an investigation found it had made claims for ineligible students, funded lavish trips abroad and covered personal expenses on college credit cards.

The inquiry into Halton College in Widnes, Cheshire, has sparked an unprecedented examination of 117 other further-education centres amid growing concerns over lax financial controls.

The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) and the National Audit Office (NAO) reports are due to be published next week. It is understood the council has examined claims that money was used to fund visits to Hong Kong, the United States, China and France by senior members of staff including the principal, Martin Jenkins, and his deputy, Jenny Dolphin.

The FEFC inquiry, details of which will be revealed on *Channel 4 News* tonight, found that Halton College had claimed funding running into hundreds of thousands of pounds for teaching students over 16-week courses – but the actual tuition lasted just one hour.

The college also lodged claims for teaching students who lived in Scotland – who are ineligible for grants in England



Jenkins: College principal under suspension

be identified, told Channel 4: "We had students up and down the country who had never seen tutors. Some students didn't even know they were on the teaching programme."

The manager said he had taught students on a one-hour course, but the college claimed for teaching them over 16 weeks. Asked whether the system of claiming fees was "fiddled", he replied: "It's my view that we or the college did, yes. There's no other excuse for it. To claim 16 weeks for a one-hour course is not misunderstanding the rules." For that indiscretion alone, the college has been ordered to repay the funding council £254,000.

More than 170 staff, about one-third of the total, will be made redundant to help the college to repay the fees.

Halton College expanded rapidly when, six years ago, further education establishments were taken out of local authority control and turned into free-standing corporations. It touted for training and education business among big companies all over the country.

Clients included hotel chains, supermarkets and caterers, as well as ordinary students. Halton had already achieved notoriety when it introduced a National Vocational Qualification in shelf-stacking for Tesco. A former manager at the college, who did not wish to be named, said: "It was well-known that our expenses were unlimited in the first two years. No one bothered, no one checked, no one was interested. We were



Halton College in Cheshire claimed funding for ineligible students, and for 16 weeks of tuition for one-hour courses

making that much money – we were a bit like drunken sailors in port."

The FEFC report is expected to conclude that fees were claimed for "ineligible provi-

sion" of courses to students; expenditure on credit cards "was not adequately controlled"; and there was a lack of controls over travel expenses.

On taking trips abroad,

which were aimed at recruiting foreign students, the FEFC is expected to say: "The number, duration, expense and geographical range of trips taken is out of all proportion to any of the benefits the college claims to have derived from them."

After the investigation into Halton College began, the NAO sent out a questionnaire to 117 other colleges to establish what sort of financial controls were in place. It is understood more than half did not specify who should authorise travel expenses for the principal or vice-principal. The NAO report is expected to recommend tighter controls on college credit cards, provision for a "whistle-blowers' charter" and advice to boards

of governors on controlling the expenditure of principals.

In a statement to Channel 4, authorised by Mrs Dolphin, Mr Jenkins said: "I refute the allegations... Halton College

was a pioneer in new forms of work-based training, and the

FEFC's funding methodology was not designed to incorporate such work," he said. "We were open and transparent with the FEFC officers, who validated our claim after satisfying themselves that it was valid."

John Bolton, the college's acting principal, who was not present during the relevant period, agreed that the college benefited from the way it had interpreted the rules.

"Perhaps we claimed more

than we should have done for some students, and perhaps wrongly added up the numbers of students in other areas. So, yes, the college did make some mistakes."

Asked about the huge amounts the college had over-claimed for courses, he replied: "Students are load-handed and you can claim up to a certain level for each student. And this college claimed at the maximum rather than perhaps the mid-point."

"Perhaps claiming at the mid-point might have been more sensible and, when we went back through the books and the records with the FEFC, quite clearly the college had over-claimed."

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Teachers fight to keep long holiday

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS VOWED yesterday to fight to protect their traditional long summer holiday. The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) said the six-week summer break was their "last perk" and threatened to boycott radical plans being drawn up in some areas to introduce a five-term school year.

Local authority leaders are developing proposals to re-vamp the centuries-old school year, familiar to generations of schoolchildren. East Sussex, Essex and Newham councils are canvassing parents and education workers on proposals for a five-term year, and similar plans are being considered across London.

Under the proposals, the traditional Christmas, spring and summer terms would be scrapped and replaced with five equal-length terms. Half-term holidays would be abolished and the current six-week summer break would be cut to four weeks.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, told the annual conference in Eastbourne that staff might react by simply



turning up for their traditional three-term year, if the reforms went ahead.

"The last perk of the teaching profession is the long summer holiday and they had better keep it," he said. "Teachers need it and the kids need it as much. It's absolute nonsense to think that children will forget things during the summer. If they cannot remember for five weeks, what is education worth?"

"It is only happening locally because they realise that if they came up-front with a straightforward proposal to shorten teachers' holidays, they would be faced with revolt." Critics of the traditional year argue that it is based largely on

the needs of harvest-time, and say children lose out because of the lengthy annual gap in their schooling. Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, said there was no evidence that a long summer break benefited either pupils or their teachers.

He said: "The idea that you need six weeks of summer holiday to recover is interesting when you compare it with every other job in the country. There is no evidence they need a long summer holiday – if holidays were more spread out, teachers would have less stress. We have to consider what is best for the children."

Delegates unanimously backed a motion calling on teachers to oppose any change to the school year. They also attacked any move to extend the length of the working year. The conference was told changes to holiday patterns would play havoc with families' plans and require a wholesale rethink of teaching.

Ian Draper, of the union's national executive, said: "Much of the work we do in schools is devised around a three-term year or six half-term blocks. This is going to drive a coach and horses through it."

Scottish fossil lizard may be the first land-dweller

A SMALL lizard-like animal whose fossilised remains have been found in an ancient Scottish lake bed may have been one of the first creatures to live on dry land, scientists reported yesterday.

The 15cm specimen, named *Casineria kiddi*, dates back almost 340 million years to a dark age of animal evolution about which little is known.

All life on Earth can be traced back to the sea. Creatures with limbs and digits had evolved from fish by the end of the Devonian period 365 million years ago. But little is known about the time between this event and the appearance of fully terrestrial animals in the

late Carboniferous period, about 335 million years ago. But the fossil, found in a rock formation called the Cheese Bay Shrimp Bed, near Edinburgh, provides a clue to what was happening during those 30 million years.

The creature's remains consist of a number of fossilised skeletal fragments, but the skull is missing. Its most important feature is a five-digit limb – the earliest known in the fossil record.

This marks out *C. kiddi* as a land-dweller, placing it closer to amniotes (modern reptiles, mammals and birds) than aquatic amphibians. The discovery suggests that amniotes date back a long way, to an era of rapid evolution early in the Carboniferous period.

A team of English and Scottish experts wrote in the journal *Nature*: "The degree of terrestriality exhibited by *Casineria* indicates that the transition to land-dwelling may have taken place within about 20 million years. The physical resemblance of *Casineria* to known true amniotes from the late Carboniferous period and its apparent phylogenetic relationship to these forms indicates that the split between amphibians and amniotes probably also occurred rapidly within this time-span."

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Lawrences clash over TV interview

ITV IS to go ahead with an interview with the suspects in the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, despite a last-minute clash with the Lawrence family's lawyer over the programme's content.

Neville and Doreen Lawrence have won the right to watch the programme today before it is aired at 10 o'clock tonight, but ITV insiders say the programme will go ahead whatever their reaction.

Granada Television, which is making the current affairs show *Tonight*, which features the interviews, is keeping the contents of the programme under wraps to try to minimise protests and head off any legal moves to stop the broadcast.

The broadcaster was still editing the interviews late last night after spending the day in negotiations with the family's lawyer, Imran Khan. So sensi-

BY PAUL McCANN
Media Editor



Neville Lawrence: Angry his views not considered

tive is Granada about the programme that it produced a replacement documentary in case it had to pull the programme.

The suspects from Eltham, south-east London – Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, David Norris and Neil and Jamie Acourt – were interviewed separately by Martin Bashir, the former BBC journalist who interviewed Diana, Princess of Wales for *Panorama*.

Jeff Anderson, the editor of *Tonight*, said yesterday: "The programme includes significant new material which may open new avenues of inquiry for the police. However, we are confident it will not prejudice any possible future prosecution of the five suspects."

The programme is a rigorous and detailed interrogation of the five suspects and in no way provides them with a platform. No areas of questioning were off limits and no payment was asked for or made."

Mr Bashir had been in contact with the suspects for months to secure an interview and the Lawrences are upset

because they believe they were told that their views would be taken into consideration before a decision was made to screen the programme.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence are known to be angry that the suspects chose not to give evidence at the inquest into Stephen's death or at the private prosecution brought by the family, but will now be able to deny any part in the murder without legal cross-examination.

Granada said its questioning of the five was "meticulous and exhaustive". The men were interviewed secretly in London last month.

The Metropolitan Police began legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act last week to try to gain access to the hours of video tape produced, but agreed to wait until the programme is screened before taking action.



A 1926 Rolls-Royce Doctor's drophead coupé arriving for auction at Sotheby's Billingshurst salesroom yesterday in time for tomorrow's sale, where it is expected to fetch up to £20,000

Andrew Hasson

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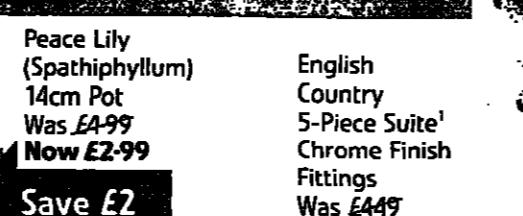
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Voters believe boosted NHS still in crisis

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

Recent "focus group" discussions, which have been reported to Tony Blair, show that memories of Labour's five key election pledges are now vague. But people expect the Government to focus on health and education and will believe it has kept its promises only when these services improve.

The research found that voters feel "rather overwhelmed" by the statement that £40bn is being pumped into the NHS and education. The figure was seen as "too big to imagine" because people have seen little evidence of it. The popular perception is still that the NHS is in crisis," says a summary of Labour's recent polling.

Despite fears about the NHS, there is a party's research suggests, a strong belief that the Government is working to improve hospitals. Voters agreed that Labour was "on the right track to improve Britain". In contrast people continued to regard the Tories as uncaring.

Mobility 'speeds reaction time'

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE WORLD'S first study into the effects of mobile phones on the human brain has cleared them of causing memory loss.

Researchers from the University of Bristol found that using mobile phones may actually improve a person's mental performance, as revealed by *The Independent* last month.

The findings will be greeted with relief by Britain's 10 million mobile phone users, who have been subjected to a series of scare stories based on mis-reporting of the Bristol study.

In a series of experiments on a panel of 36 volunteers, the scientists attempted to mimic the effects of being exposed to the microwave radiation emitted from mobile phones during a 30-minute conversation.

Alan Preece, the leader of the research team from the uni-

versity and the Bristol Royal Infirmary, said: "There appears to be no effect on short-term memory or attention for short exposures to the microwave effects of mobile phones. But there was one noticeable effect: the subjects reacted faster in one test involving a visual choice after the transmissions."

The researchers, reporting in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, said the improved reaction time may be due to microwaves influencing the brain's temperature.

Dr Preece said he did not wish to speculate about the risks to health from mobile phones. He said it is for other experts, such as neurologists, to make such assessments.

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Asians build fortunes in hi-tech and TV

BY KATHY MARKS

ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS are abandoning the corner shops and clothing factories on which previous generations founded their business empires and are seeking their fortunes instead in computing, finance and the media, according to a survey published yesterday.

The list, produced annually for the past three years, shows that while British Asians are still making money in traditional sectors such as food, fashion and retailing, they are increasingly moving into more modern, dynamic industries.

The wealthiest 200 businesspeople and women are worth a total of £7.5bn, up from £5bn last year. At the top of the tree are the Hindu brothers, Srichand, 63, and Gopi, 59, whose finance, telecommunications and oil empire is valued at £1.3bn. The Hindus, whose offer to underwrite the Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome caused a political storm last year, have supplanted Lakshmi Mittal, 48, the Bombay steel magnate who was number one in the league table last year.

Mr Mittal, whose value has dropped from £2bn to £1.2bn thanks to a slump in the share price of his company, Ispat International, is one of the big losers this year.

The list features a lottery winner, three peers – Lord Paul, the metals tycoon, Lord Bagri, chairman of the London Metal Exchange, and Lord Ali, co-owner of the television company Planet 24 – and, for the first time, the author Salman Rushdie. Mr Rushdie's personal fortune is estimated at £5m and, as his agent, Andrew Wylie, pointed out recently, he has not had much opportunity to spend it, because of the fatuity imposed against him for nearly a decade.

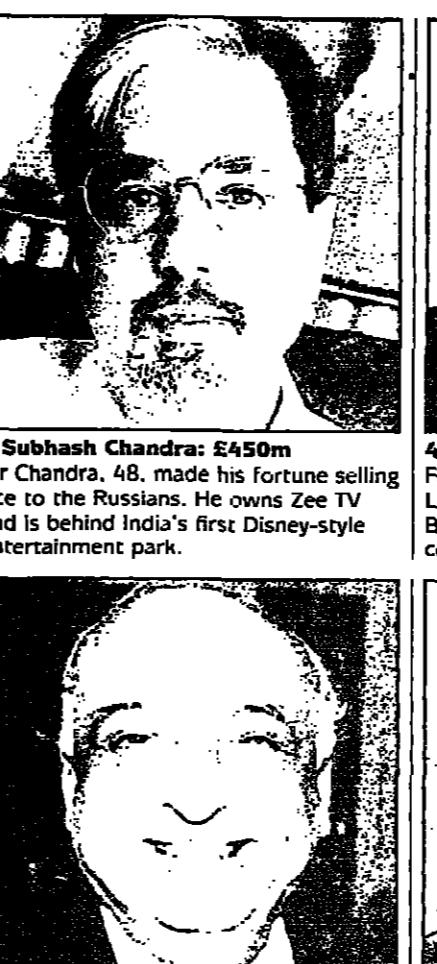
Other new faces include Iqbal Ahmed, 42, whose shrimp processing company, Seasmack, is valued at £60m. Nissim Munshi, 71, whose family owns 35% of shares in Wrenigate, a



1 Srichand (pictured) and Gopi Hinduja: £1.3bn The brothers head a family firm with interests in banking and oil. They have offered to underwrite the Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome.



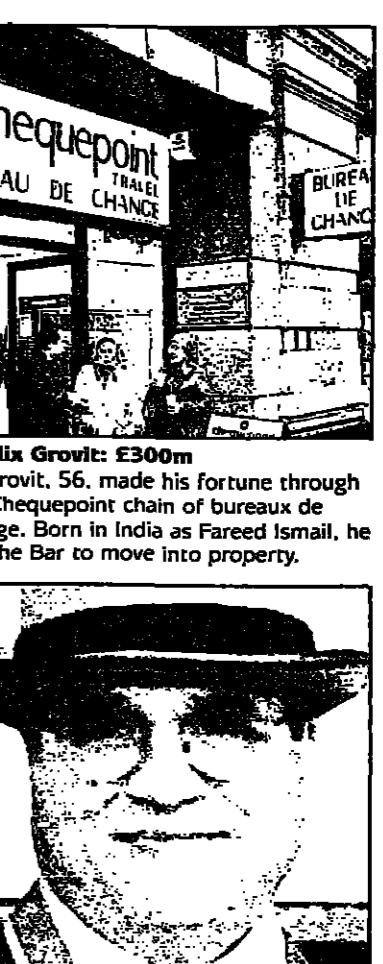
2 Lakshmi Mittal: £1.2bn Owner of one of the world's biggest steel companies, he lives in Hampstead, north London, where he is said to entertain in style.



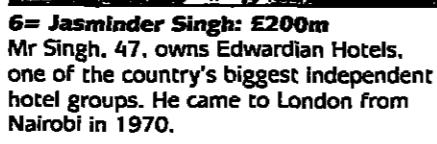
3 Subhash Chandra: £450m Mr Chandra, 48, made his fortune selling rice to the Russians. He owns Zee TV and is behind India's first Disney-style entertainment park.



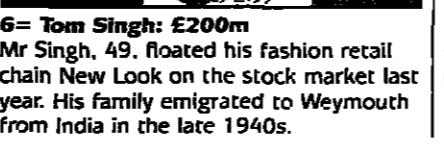
4 Lord Paul: £325m Formerly Suvraj Paul, he sits on the Labour benches in the House of Lords. Built up his steel empire, Caparo, after coming to Britain 33 years ago.



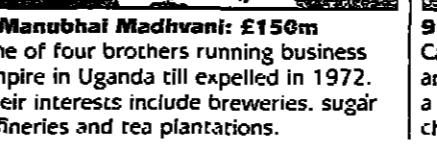
5 Felix Grovit: £300m Mr Grovit, 56, made his fortune through the Chequepoint chain of bureaux de change. Born in India as Fareed Ismail, he left the Bar to move into property.



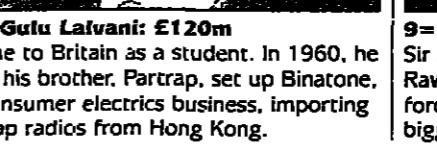
6 Jasmin Singh: £200m Mr Singh, 47, owns Edwardian Hotels, one of the country's biggest independent hotel groups. He came to London from Nairobi in 1970.



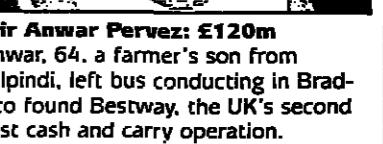
7 Tom Singh: £200m Mr Singh, 49, floated his fashion retail chain New Look on the stock market last year. His family emigrated to Weymouth from India in the late 1940s.



8 Manubhai Mehta: £150m One of four brothers running business empire in Uganda till expelled in 1972. Their interests include breweries, sugar refineries and tea plantations.



9 Guru Lalvani: £120m Came to Britain as a student. In 1960, he and his brother, Partrap, set up Binatone, a consumer electronics business, importing cheap radios from Hong Kong.



10 Sir Anwar Pervaiz: £120m Sir Anwar, 64, a farmer's son from Rawalpindi, left his business in Bradford to found Bestway, the UK's second biggest cash and carry operation.

Manchester textiles importer, and Mohammed Sheikh, 62, a director of the Bestway cash-and-carry group, with £26m of shares.

Youthful entrants account for the growing visibility of British Asians in the hi-tech industries. At 85, for instance, is Ajaz Ahmed, a 25-year-old tycoon who launched an Internet consultancy, AKQA New Media, in 1993 after dropping out of university and is now worth £14m.

The highest climber from last year is 38-year-old James Caan, a recruitment consultant whose fortune is valued at £61m, up from £3.4m last year. The most high-profile casualty is Reuben Singh, the flamboyant founder of the Miss Attitude fashion chain.

Last year he was valued at £45m. This year he does not feature at all, thanks to doubts about the sum for which he sold the business.

Charan Sohal, founder of Orbit International, a fashion firm based in Birmingham, said yesterday: "The Asian philosophy is to work for the next generation. We [the elders] have laid down the foundation and it is up to our ambitious sons to build the skyscraper for the next generation."

Sukhdev Sandhu, Review, page 5

Mother gives part of liver to save son

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

A MOTHER has saved the life of her baby son by donating part of her liver in a unique transplant operation.

Jill and David Bettelley were told that Luke, aged 18 months, had only 48 hours to live because a suitable donor could not be found. Mrs Bettelley, 32, asked surgeons to allow her to donate part of her liver.

The operation, which was successful, has made medical history in Britain – it is the first time surgeons have used a live donor for a transplant patient with acute liver failure and saved someone's life. Other live donor transplants are carried out but they are done with two or three weeks' preparation on people with chronic liver problems, not those who only have hours to live.

"Now we know we can do this sort of operation, we should



Jill Bettelley: Mother and baby Luke are doing well

progress. He is making a good recovery."

Mrs Bettelley, from Worthing, West Sussex, was said to be fired but recovering. "I could have died on the operating table but that didn't even come into it. My only concern was for Luke and what I could do for him," she said.

Adult donors can give up to half of their liver and survive as the liver regenerates itself over time. It is believed that Luke was given one-eighth of his mother's liver.

Mohammed Rela, the consultant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: "In the absence of a suitable donor, Luke would have certainly died. Jill and David have been marvellous throughout and were very brave and positive, which helped us do our job well."

Luke was brought into King's College hospital on 28 February and operated on five days later.

"We expect to keep Luke in hospital for another two or three weeks for observation. We are very pleased with his

ability to save 15 to 20 lives a year," said a spokesman for King's College hospital in London, where the operation was carried out five weeks ago. Mother and baby are doing well.

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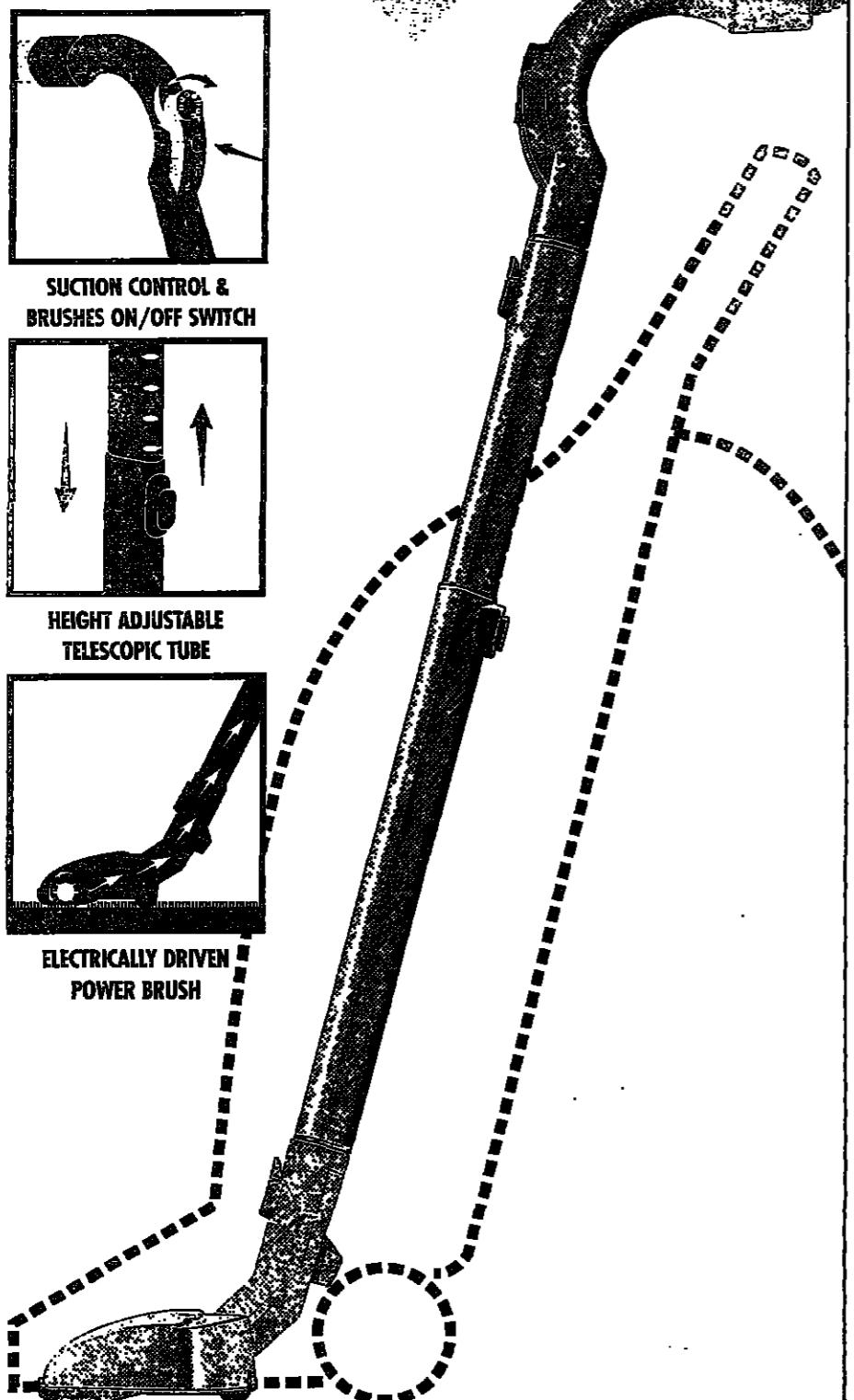
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Banana war: Last-minute deal could lift threat on luxury goods sector

US wins the right to impose trade tariffs

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

THE TRADE war between the United States and Europe over banana imports deepened yesterday after Washington was given the go-ahead to impose punitive tariffs on £120m of

European exports. Brian Wilson, a Trade minister, said: "This has got nothing to do with cashmere, nothing to do with all these other industries, but purely has to do with bananas ... The principle is that of course they shouldn't be taking action against any unrelated industries and that this thing should be settled within the relevant sector."

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) gave the US permission yesterday to impose 100 per cent tariffs on goods from Europe. It backed Washington's claims that EU rules, which took effect in January, failed to comply with earlier WTO decisions on banana imports.

The US, which wants more access to the European banana market, has long argued that EU tariffs favour former European colonies in the Caribbean over Latin American producers, and European distributors over US companies.

But London and Brussels dismissed America's claims of a "major victory", pointing out that the WTO had scaled down significantly Washington's demand for sanctions on goods worth £314m.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EU vice-president and trade commissioner, insisted the WTO's decision to give the US less than half of what it wanted amounted to "a pretty stunning rebuke".

He said the organisation had ruled that America had "jumped the gun and taken the law into its own hands" by imposing conditional duties last month. Its retaliation "has been and remains largely illegal", he said.

Sir Leon said the EU would abide by the rules but would first consider an appeal against the WTO's decision. The ruling would allow the high tariffs to be imposed retrospectively from 3 March.

Despite the latest war of words, the two sides may yet

seek a last-minute compromise that could persuade the US to scrap the sanctions. Both the British government and the US embassy in London raised the prospect of talks aimed at limiting the dispute to bananas, lifting the threat to other products.

Brian Wilson, a Trade minister, said: "This has got nothing to do with cashmere, nothing to do with all these other industries, but purely has to do with bananas ... The principle is that of course they shouldn't be taking action against any unrelated industries and that this thing should be settled within the relevant sector."

Peter Chase, economic counsellor at the US embassy in London, said: "We have passed one step in this process and hopefully it will galvanise the negotiations that are needed to solve this problem. But if the EU regime remains illegal and if the problem isn't resolved then we would be authorised to take action against other imports from the EU."

The White House insisted it was satisfied by the compensation it had won, which is the biggest trade sanction authorised by the WTO.

The final list of European goods subject to tariffs would be published in a few days, said US officials. They would be selected from the original list, which ranged from Scottish cashmere sweaters and Italian cheese to French handbags and German coffee makers.

Peter Scher, America's senior negotiator on agriculture matters, warned that products would be chosen in an effort to exert maximum political pressure on EU politicians to change their policy on banana tariffs.

Jim Thompson of the Hawick Cashmere Company said the sanctions would cause severe problems for his industry in Scotland. "It will have catastrophic effects - if this actually goes through we are looking at most definitely a thousand jobs in the Borders," he told BBC Radio Scotland.

The cashmere industry is receiving government aid to compensate for losses caused by the US sanctions, but the subsidy ends next week.



The British candle industry could take years to rebuild its exports Geraut Lewis

Scots exporters hope to escape heavy duty

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

BRITISH OFFICIALS hope that sanctions against Scottish exports of cashmere sweaters will be dropped after the United States wins its argument in the banana trade war.

A panel of experts at the World Trade Organisation has ruled that the European Union was wrong to limit imports for bananas. But it also said that the damage to the US had been less than Washington had claimed, meaning that it must cut its list of sanctions.

The US welcomed warmly the WTO decision, in a case that has dragged on for nearly a decade. Europe gives some preferences to imported bananas from former colonial territories, and US companies that export the fruit from other countries claim they have been penalised as a result. But the experts said the US could impose sanctions of only \$191.4m (£120m) in retaliation. The US drew up a list of products totalling \$520m (£325m), and has begun asking importers for

solution based on the problem, which is about bananas.

The EU reacted with disappointment to the ruling. "We will carefully study both the arbitrator's report and the two panel reports and, of course, meanwhile reserve our right of appeal," said Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's trade commissioner.

"It is, however, already clear from the arbitrator's report that the unilateral US retaliation currently in place against EU exports has been, and remains, largely illegal, as it is set at a level well over double that determined by the arbitrator. To comply with the law, the US must ... immediately end sanctions and the threat of sanctions on over half the trade currently subject to them."

The ruling will allow Europe to give some protection to Caribbean banana imports, but it will have to revise the banana import regime. It has already done so once, but the US said it had not done enough and the WTO agreed.

TRADE WAR DAMAGE

A NUMBER of small British companies bear the brunt of the trade war. The candle industry, in particular, has been hit hard. Ian Barnet, managing director of Shearer Candles, a Glasgow company employing 40 people, said: "We are in deep trouble. It will affect a third of our business and lose us £1-2m in turnover." Louise Pope, export manager of the Colony Gift Corporation, a candle manufacturer based in Cumbria, said: "We are still hoping that our particular product will be taken off the hit list." The company, which has 600 UK employees, relies on exports across the Atlantic for 10 per cent of its business. Ms Pope added: "It could take us years to build up exports again. It's not just our current sales we could lose. There is also the potential business we will lose, which could also now go to our competitors in the East. It's going to be very difficult to get back in there."

Alex Muirhead, commercial director of Price's Candles, which employs 400 people and exports about 10 per cent of its products to the United States, said: "It's very bad timing. We have been investing a lot of money in America in terms of warehousing and infrastructure. It's been a real blow and could have a real effect on jobs in the UK. Our rivals in Denmark and Holland have been handed orders on a plate."

Isabel Welch, chief executive of the Giftware Association, which has been lobbying the Government on behalf of its members, added: "We are obviously relieved that the sum of money has been cut and we are hopeful that our product will be taken off the list."

"But even if it is, our American contacts have been irrevocably damaged because they have started sourcing in the Far East. Now we have to start building those links again."

Bubble bursts for vintage claret

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

THE SPECULATIVE bubble in prices of the finest young Bordeaux wines - which have doubled and trebled in recent years - appears to have burst.

The 1998 vintage, though generally reckoned to be one of the best for some time, has been selling in the past few days for up to 25 per cent less than the 1997 vintage, which was universally judged to be poor.

The sale of a good wine for less than a bad one goes against all the instincts and traditions of the growers and traders. It amounts to a recognition by the big Bordeaux chateaux that the steep price increases of recent years threat-

en to ruin the international market for high-quality claret. "There have been abundant warnings from shippers that prices had to fall this year, however good the 1998 wine might be," one British wine trader said. "The producers have finally seen some sense."

The chateau-cos-d'estourel - the most prestigious claret in the Saint-Estephe area of the Medoc - led the way by selling 70 per cent of its 1998 wine at a 25 per cent discount on last year's price. Other high-quality labels have followed

clarets - £40 to £30 in the shops - which will not be drinkable for another seven years or more. It will have no direct impact on retail prices of more modest bottles of about £10 but it may help to arrest the upward trend in all Bordeaux prices seen in recent years.

This follows a virtual stand-off in January and February when many wine traders boycotted the advance bidding. Early sales of the 1998 vintage - despite its excellent quality - were less than one third of the normal level.

The drop in chateau prices affects only the highest-quality

being made by some shippers and traders, and asked: "Why not us?"

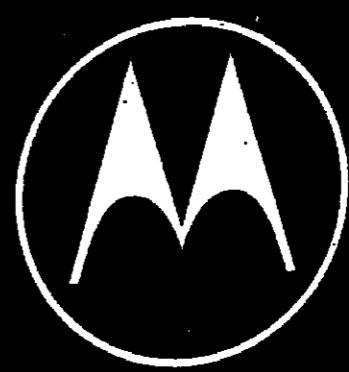
They ramped up the asking price for young Bordeaux (primeur) and, having got away with it one year, did it again, the next and the next.

Last year partly because of the Asian recession, the market fell flat. Thousands and thousands of cases of the "poor" 1997 vintage remain unsold in wine traders' cellars all over the world. While these stocks remained on their hands, shippers were reluctant to pay a high price for the 1998 vintage, however good it might prove to be.

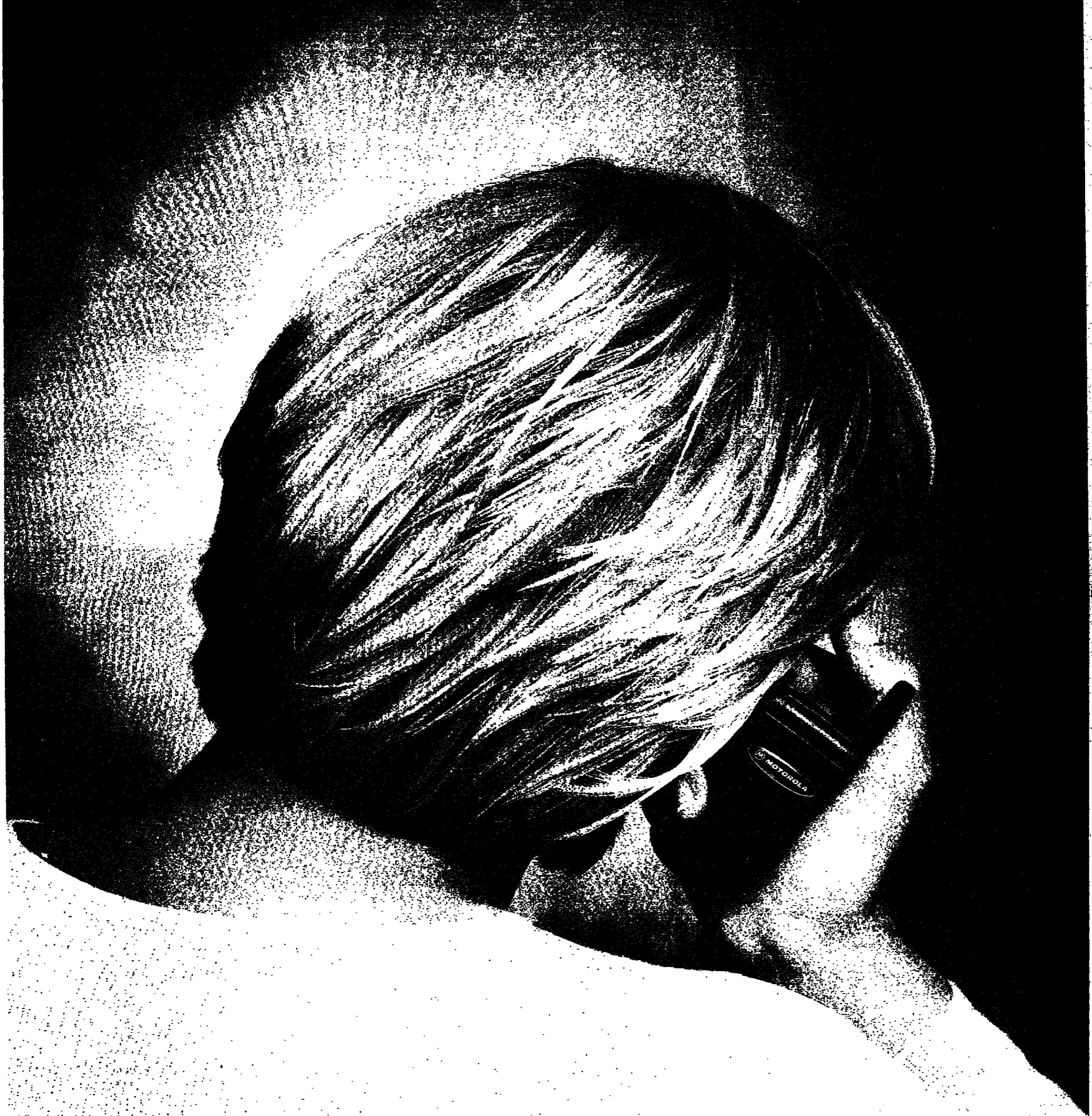


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Iraq villages braced for germ attack

THE IRAQI President, Saddam Hussein, is deploying troops wearing gas masks and special white uniforms, designed to protect them against chemical weapons, around Najaf, a city at the centre of opposition to his leadership.

The appearance of soldiers equipped against chemical warfare has caused terror in Najaf, where there are well-founded fears that the government is prepared to use poison gas against them if there is any sign of an uprising. A traveller who left Najaf recently said: "Everybody was so frightened when they saw the chemical warfare suits that they locked themselves in their houses. The streets were empty."

Iraq has used chemical weapons against domestic opponents in the past. In 1988 Iraqi artillery and aircraft used munitions filled with the nerve gases sarin and tabun against the Kurdish town of Halabja, killing 5,000 people.

Iraqi troops equipped with tanks and multiple rocket launchers have sealed off Najaf since 19 February, when Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, a popular leader of the Shia Muslims, who are a majority in Iraq, was shot dead in an ambush with his two sons. He is widely believed in Iraq to be the latest victim of government death squads, who are alleged to have killed four senior members of the Shia clergy in the past five years.

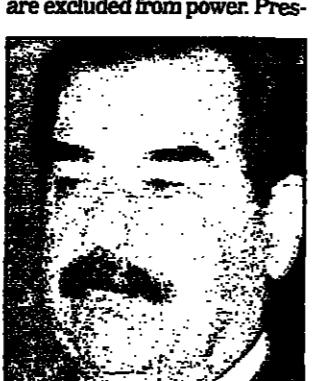
The Iraqi government is aware that any sign that it is about to use poison gas – such as troops wearing chemical warfare suits – provokes terror among Iraqis. In 1991 Iraqi helicopters dropped flour, which looks like a cloud of gas, on the Kurds, in response to their uprising, to speed up their flight to Turkey and Iran.

Opponents of the Baghdad regime living in exile say that President Saddam has chosen

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

this moment to increase repression against the Shia because he knows international attention is focused on Kosovo. Yusuf al-Khoei, a member of a Shia charitable organisation in London, says: "I have seen nothing as bad as this since the uprising after the Gulf War [in 1991]. There are many arrests and executions. Saddam knows the attention of the world is focused elsewhere."

The Shias make up 55 per cent of the Iraqi population but are excluded from power. Pres-



Saddam: Fears Shia clergy

ident Saddam appears to consider the Shias' religious leaders, most of whom live in the holy cities of Najaf, Kufah and Karbala on the Euphrates, as being the most dangerous potential rebels to his rule.

Ayatollah Sadr built up a religious organisation throughout southern Iraq and in Baghdad. Before his murder he appointed community judges and prayer leaders, many of whom have now been arrested.

Iraqi security has such a tight grip on Najaf and the other holy cities that it is unlikely anybody other than government death squads could have carried out the assassinations of Sadr and the other senior clerics.

An Iraqi who left Najaf 10 days ago says the govern-

ment's claim to have caught and executed the killers "is only good for Iraqi propaganda outside Iraq. Nobody believes it at home."

The Baghdad government has, however, taken advantage of the assassinations by using them as an excuse to place surviving Shia leaders under virtual house arrest, ostensibly for their own protection. Armed Iraqi security men now prevent visitors from seeing the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

Meanwhile, the US and British governments are seeking to remould the Iraqi opposition at a two-day meeting at a hotel in Windsor, Berkshire, which started yesterday. The meeting is of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the deeply divided umbrella organisation of the opposition, and is to set a date for its general assembly, possibly later in the month.

Hoshyar Zibari, a leader of the powerful Kurdistan Democratic Party, which belongs to the INC, says the aim is to choose a new leadership. The White House, US State Department and the CIA are eager to remove control of the INC from its leader, Ahmad Chalabi, who has strong support in the US Congress.

Mr Chalabi advocates a guerrilla war using promised US equipment in the hope of provoking mutinies within the army. Mr Zibari said he sees the future of the INC as a political organisation and not as a military movement.

The Kurdish parties are unlikely to agree to the INC operating from Kurdistan, the only part of Iraq outside the control of President Saddam, unless they receive cast-iron assurances from the US that it will protect them in the event of an Iraqi counter-attack. Kurdish misgivings about US air support have been compounded by its failure to prevent Serbia expelling the Kosovars.

THE US gun lobby suffered a setback yesterday when the mid-Western state of Missouri voted to retain its ban on carrying concealed firearms.

It was the first time that the United States had put the contentious question of gun control to a popular vote, and the result was seen as a sign that the gun lobby's influence could be on

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

the wane. The National Rifle Association spent almost \$4m (£2.5m) on presenting its case, with newspaper and television advertisements, and speakers, including Charlton Heston, at meetings across the state.

The turn-out was far higher

than expected, and exit polls indicated that it was primarily inner-city voters (predominantly black) and suburban voters (predominantly white) who had clinched the victory.

Missouri is one of only seven states in the US where carrying a concealed weapon is banned. The state resorted to a referendum after pro-gun politicians

had repeatedly tried and failed to have the law changed in the legislature.

The "right to carry" lobby

has made steady inroads over the past decade, with a majority of states legalising the right.

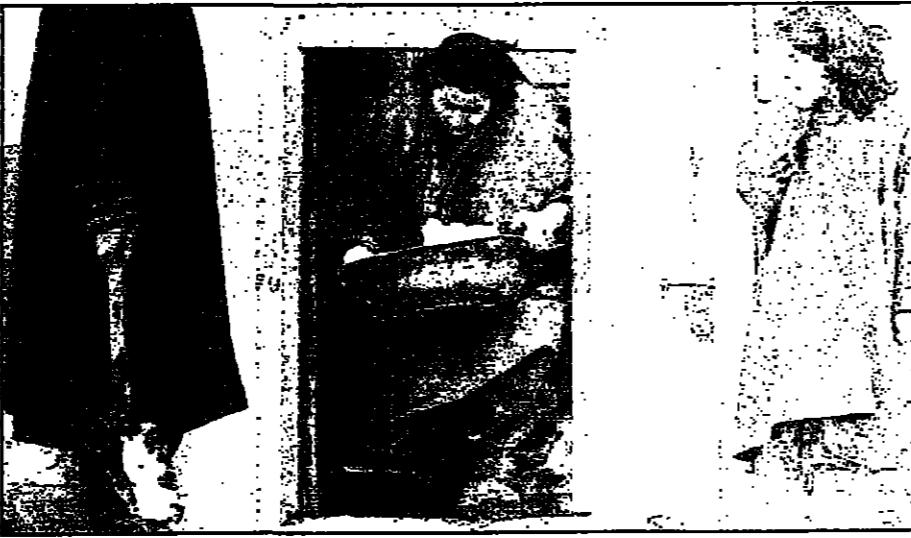
Carrying a concealed weapon is now permitted in 31 states, and allowed with restrictions in a further 12.

Missouri keeps concealed arms ban

Spring casts a deadly chill in land of majestic beauty

FRONTLINE

MUZAFFARABAD,
KASHMIR



The end of winter brings renewed dangers for the people of Kashmir AP

the shells start to crash down.

Last year there was widespread destruction and scores of people died. For a few weeks, when the bombardment reached its height, refugees poured into Muzaffarabad – a hot and dusty place with an unfeasible amount of corrugated iron on the roofs of its buildings reflecting a sun that is blinding even in April. This year despite the recent thaw in relations between Delhi and Islamabad, everyone is preparing to go through the same thing again.

"It's a nightmare," said Khwaja Ghulam Mohammed, a wholesaler of rice and pulses. "Every year I am doing all right and then the fighting starts and business gets terrible."

Ever since the Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir led his state – with its predominantly Muslim population – into India in 1947 there have been problems. Twice Pakistan – which believes it is the rightful owner of the state – and India have fought wars over its thousands of square miles of valleys, peaks and lakes. The international community has largely given up on the problem and is now reduced to keeping it. collective fingers

crossed, hoping that the dispute does not spark a conflict between the world's two newest overt nuclear powers.

Last year, immediately after the Indian nuclear tests in May, I interviewed Abdul Qayyum, whose brother, a credit officer in a local bank, was killed in June 1995 by Indian shelling as he was riding his motorcycle up the Neelam valley on his way home from work.

Last week over tea in his simple home, Mr Qayyum said he could never forgive: "How can I forget this? I am only sad because I have not yet had a chance to get my revenge. The Indian firing has created hatred in us towards India."

Around the city are half a dozen camps for the refugees who have fled from what the Pakistanis call "Indian-occupied Kashmir" and, almost to a man, share Mr Qayyum's feelings. They are now well-established townships with stone buildings, intermittent electricity, shops and cobbled streets. The shops are not exactly well-stocked – mainly limited to a few bars of soap and some odd-shaped bits of rubber described as children's toys. There appeared to be an

explicable glut of umbrellas. The camps are the recruiting ground for many of the fighters waging a guerrilla war against the Indian security forces. Though the Pakistanis deny it, these mujahedin are supported, armed and trained by organisations closely linked to the Pakistani intelligence services. It is these fighters' attempts to infiltrate Indian territory – which start when the snow on the high passes melts enough to allow passage – that provokes the barrages of artillery fire.

When they reach Indian territory the guerrillas set about matching the destruction wreaked by the Indian shelling in the Neelam valley. Soldiers and policemen are assassinated, houses torched, Hindus massacred. In an awful symmetry, scores of Indians learn to hate like Abdul Qayyum. Peace looks far away.

Everyone knows that when winter comes again the bombs and the bullets will stop while the Himalayan storms layer Kashmir with white. And, next year, when the sun starts to strip the snow away, the sounds of spring will once again shatter the peace.

JASON BURKE



The Russian Orthodox Patriarch, Alexy II, celebrating the Annunciation in Moscow yesterday Yuri Gripas

Yeltsin's men of gold in trouble

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

TWO OF seven oligarchs who bankrolled Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign now face arrest warrants, providing graphic testimony of the change in Russia's politics since Yevgeny Primakov became Prime Minister.

Alexander Smolensky used to be one of the most powerful magnates in the country, founder of a leading bank and a man so rich that he could afford to donate 50kg of gold ingots to gild the dome on Moscow's rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

His fellow mogul Boris Berezovsky, head of a media and industrial empire, was so close to the Kremlin he was dubbed a contemporary Rasputin, and considered capable of making and breaking prime ministers. He once claimed credit for Mr Yeltsin's 1996 re-election, saying it was engineered by seven magnates – himself included – who controlled more than half of Russia's economy.

Now both men are abroad – Mr Berezovsky in Paris; Mr Smolensky in Vienna. Both have seen their empires wither after Russia's financial crisis erupted last August. And both can expect to be arrested if they set foot on Russian soil today. If further proof was ever needed that the days of business oligarchs ruling Russia are over, then this is it.

Mr Smolensky's demise marks a particularly sharp reversal of fortune. His banking empire took a heavy hit in the economic collapse. He then set himself at odds with Mr Yeltsin by publicly lamenting the loss of the Soviet Union, and accusing the state of repeatedly robbing the public.

Mr Berezovsky, who helped

to rescue two British hostages from Chechnya last year, has long seemed destined for the chop. He is considered an enemy by Mr Primakov, who vowed to crack down on "economic criminals", and in parliament formed a consensus with the ascendant Communists, who resent the oligarchs.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Cornwell Parker ponders offers

CORNWELL PARKER, the furniture and fabrics company which in January said it had received preliminary merger approaches, has received further approaches that may lead to an offer for the group.

In its interim results, the company said it was in talks concerning a possible bid. The comments lifted the share price 14 per cent to 98.5p, valuing the company at £41m. Before January the shares were languishing at less than 55p. Yesterday the company announced six-month profits down from £3.5m to £2.1m, with earnings down from 5.3p to 3.5p per share. There were "some signs the worst may be over," said James Moore, the chief executive.

Harvey Nichols stake may be sold

HARVEY NICHOLS
share price, pence

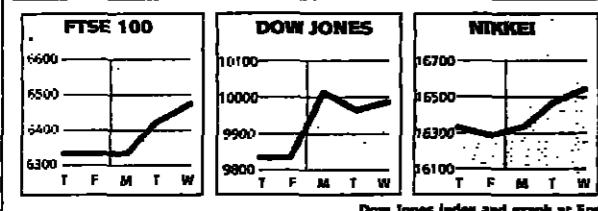
Source: Datstream

OUTSIDE ASIA Its shares were suspended in Hong Kong pending the announcement. The market speculated on a Harvey Nichols sell-off, marking the shares up 11p to 188.5p, valuing the company at just over £100m. Analysts said a bid could come from luxury goods group LVMH. However, other analysts said Dickson Concepts may only announce the sale of the freehold of the flagship Knightsbridge store.

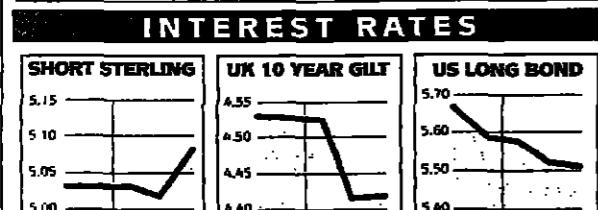
Clinton Cards on acquisition trail

CLINTON CARDS, the card retailer which bought The Greeting Store Group for £28.7m in October, is still looking out for further acquisitions. The company, which now has 718 shops, says it could achieve a chain of over 1,000 by organic growth in the next few years. The group announced a doubling of full-year pre-tax profits to £15.8m.

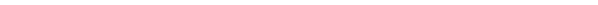
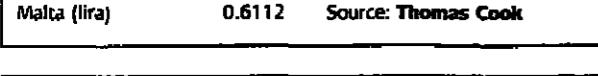
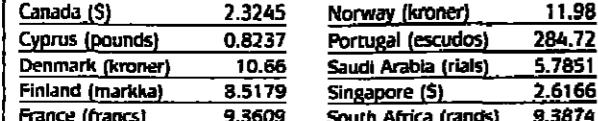
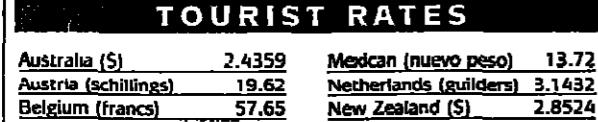
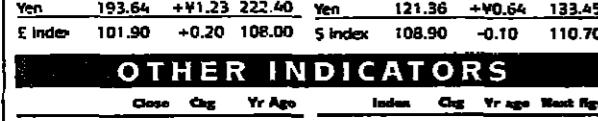
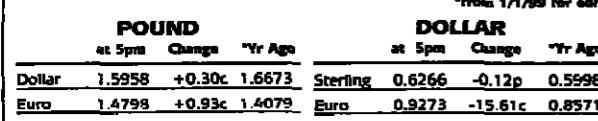
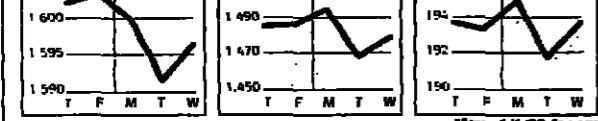
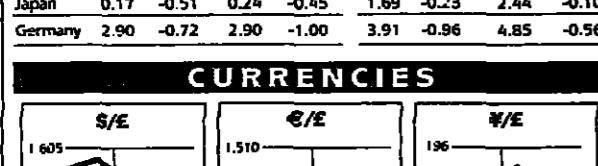
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6473.20	57.00	0.90	6493.00	4599.20	3.42
FTSE 250	5498.50	41.00	0.77	5970.90	4247.60	3.20
FTSE All Share	3064.70	26.50	0.88	3050.40	2210.40	2.33
FTSE Small Cap	2463.26	24.98	0.85	2949.85	2143.53	2.60
FTSE Pledging	2411.10	4.10	0.17	2793.80	1834.40	3.57
FTSE AIM	1312.10	2.10	0.16	1510.10	1046.20	3.54
FTSE Eurotop 100	7986.19	18.95	0.64	3079.14	2018.15	1.93
FTSE Eurotop 300	1284.20	9.85	0.77	1332.07	980.63	1.98
Dow Jones	9895.13	23.59	0.24	10065.31	7400.30	1.39
Nikkei	16534.50	74.79	0.45	16796.89	12787.90	1.62
Hong Kong	11616.87	341.89	4.89	11506.63	5544.79	3.05
Dax	5052.27	86.98	1.75	6217.83	3833.71	1.62
S&P 500	1318.21	0.41	0.03	1326.76	923.32	1.21
Nasdaq	2535.31	-27.48	-1.07	2582.37	1357.05	0.28
Toronto 300	6761.70	-9.11	-0.14	7837.70	5320.90	3.22
Brazil Bovespa	11241.12	76.44	0.69	12339.14	4573.69	3.07
Belgium Bel20	3333.94	34.88	1.06	3713.21	2696.26	1.98
Amsterdam Eex	542.55	6.21	1.16	600.63	366.58	1.62
France CAC 40	4318.04	13.56	0.32	4404.94	2881.21	1.67
Milan MIB30	37065.00	-28.00	-0.08	39170.00	24175.00	1.34
Madrid Ibex 35	10027.70	16.40	0.16	10899.80	6869.90	1.71
Irish Overall	3975.87	12.33	0.25	5581.70	3732.57	1.54
S Korea Comp	673.35	6.63	0.99	666.73	277.37	1.03
Australia ASX	3029.60	-3.30	-0.11	3034.90	2386.70	3.06



MONEY MARKET RATES	Index	3 months	Yr. clg.	1 Year	Yr. clg.	10 Year	Yr. clg.	Long bond	Yr. clg.
BOND YIELDS									
UK	5.30	-2.26	5.25	-2.31	4.42	-1.35	6.42	-1.28	
US	5.00	-0.66	5.23	-0.35	4.42	-0.35	5.51	0.34	
Japan	0.17	-0.51	0.24	-0.45	1.69	-0.22	2.44	-0.10	
Germany	2.90	-0.72	2.90	-1.00	3.91	-0.96	4.85	-0.56	



Wassall should put up or shut up

ALAN JONES, the chief cable layer at BICC, is no stranger to hostile bid battles. When he was in charge at Westland he sucked GKN into a long and bloody skirmish. Eventually GKN came up with a price sufficient to allow the West Country helicopter maker to raise the white flag.

However, the stand-off with Wassall, for all the sound and fury generated yesterday, remains firmly in the category of a phoney war. Chris Miller, who runs this wannabe venture capital trust, has been creeping up on BICC for the past six months, and his tanks are now firmly on Mr Jones's lawn.

He has built a 10 per cent stake and he has made two indicative approaches. His sighting shot was at 90p. He then wrote to the BICC board again (at 6.00pm the night before Good Friday, incidentally) indicating that he was prepared to raise his offer to 110p. But he has not formally tabled a bid and has no intention of doing so unless he has a recommendation from the BICC board in his back pocket. The expense of going hostile is the ultimate deterrent.

In the absence of such a recommendation (and why should this turkey vote for Christmas?), Mr



OUTLOOK

Miller is asking BICC's other shareholders to turn the thumbscrews and force Mr Jones back to the negotiating table.

Mr Jones has other ideas; he has decided to adopt the scorched-earth approach. Since Wassall first appeared on the share register last November, he has sold off virtually all BICC's cable interests, netting £288m of cash in the process and wiping out the group's debts. If the sale announced yesterday of the energy cables business to a US buyer goes through then there will only be Balfour Beatty to get hold of.

Shareholders in BICC may have had plenty to complain of in the past, but their spirits have been lifted

of late. Since Wassall began circling and BICC began selling, the share price has risen by close on 90 per cent. Mr Jones says that is because the market backs his strategy. Mr Miller says it reflects the bid premium in BICC. However, until a formal bid is tabled, there is no way of testing who is right. It is time for Wassall to put up or shut up.

Train standstill

YOU MIGHT not have noticed, but yesterday was officially Transport Delivery Day. Amid the customary jamboree that accompanies these announcements, ministers were dispatched to the four corners of the country to spread the good news.

In London John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced a new rail passenger champion to kick the failing train operators into line.

John Reid, the Transport minister, was in Leeds to declare West Yorkshire a Centre for Transport Excellence, while the Roads minister, Lord Whitty, hailed a bus in Cirencester to announce an extra

£20m for rural buses and £25m for country roads.

Two years into the first Labour government for two decades, Mr Prescott knows the travelling public is desperate to see tangible improvements – especially on the trains. Unfortunately, there is so far precious little evidence of it.

The appointment of Mike Grant, the Eurotunnel hard man who made 200 banks agree to a £3.6bn rescue package, as chief executive of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) is the final piece of Mr Prescott's "spring clean" of the existing regulatory setup. He is the third member of the triumvirate of Sir Alastair Morton as SRA chairman and Tom Winsor as Rail Regulator.

The difficulty is that all three appear entirely unsure about what powers they actually have. The SRA will not exist until legislative time can be found to create it – probably not until late next year. Meanwhile Sir Alastair chairs the largely defunct British Rail and Mr Grant acts as Franchising Director under a system drawn up by the Tories.

Mr Prescott points to ER's power to run trains – but Sir Alastair used February's Rail Summit

to say that the one thing he won't do is run trains. The Deputy Prime Minister says both Mr Grant and Mr Winsor have considerable powers under existing legislation that their predecessors failed to use. But Mr Winsor says his powers are lacking when it comes to enforcement.

And just when we thought ideology was dead, Sir Alastair demands the "bad old days when people said the Government must do something," while Mr Prescott says a privately owned railway "works better through the intervention of public bodies." Not much agreement there by the look of things.

Mr Prescott says the SRA is "in the sidings and ready to go." More in the sidings than ready to go, it might be said. The travelling public – and voters – are standing on the platform, and increasingly impatient, there is still no sign of the train.

Barclays poser

BARCLAYS' chairman-in-waiting Sir Peter Middleton, is negotiating a continuing role with the bank for the present chairman Andrew Bux-

ton. Mr Buxton had been expected to sever all connections with the bank after the annual general meeting later this month, but now some kind of ongoing role as an adviser on client relationships in the Middle East is foreseen.

Mr Buxton is a nice enough chap and his knowledge of the bank, as well as his family's long association with it, going back several generations, might seem to justify something short of complete disassociation. This is very much the kind of way of looking at what Sir Peter is doing, however.

A crueler one would be to regard it as typical of Barclays' inability to turn its back on the past and look to the future. It is never a good idea for executives to continue hanging around after they are meant to be gone; all they do is get in the way of and compromise the new.

This is the case even with chairmen who have proved themselves outstanding leaders. When Lord MacLaurin retired from Tesco at the age of 80, he made a clean break with the company. Rarely was a life presidency more deserved, but he rightly took the view he wouldn't be needed. The same is anticipated for Sir Richard Greenbury when he

leaves at Marks & Spencer later this year.

By contrast, Mr Buxton has proved himself less than top notch. While managing director, he was intimately involved in some of the big property loans that put Barclays into loss in the early Nineties. That didn't stop him ascending to the position of executive chairman. It wasn't his fault that while he held this position the board was at sixes and sevens, culminating ultimately in the turbulent walk out of the chief executive, Martin Taylor; but preventing this kind of a shambles is rather what a chairman is there for.

If Sir Peter is already compromising on Mr Buxton's position, what hope does he have of carrying out the urgent root-and-branch reforms necessary to modernise the bank in preparation for the digital age? Presumably Mike O'Neill, the new chief executive, is made of sterner stuff. If he ever arrives, that is. When was he meant to join? Late March was the assigned date. So where is he? He had flu, and then there were some loose ends to tie up. He'll be at his desk by Monday at the latest, Barclays insists. Let's hope so.



Mobile phone penetration in Hong Kong, already at 40 per cent, is set to hit 60 per cent by 2001. BT's move also offers a way in to the potentially huge China market

BT buys £240m stake in HK mobile operator

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday raised its exposure to the fast-growing Asian market by spending £240m on a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, the Hong Kong mobile phone operator.

The move continues BT's strategy of buying minority stakes in Asian telecoms operators as governments begin to open up markets. It also gives BT a way in to the potentially huge Chinese market when foreign companies are allowed in.

SmarTone has more than half a million customers and is 15 per cent share of the Hong Kong market, ranking it third behind operators owned by Hong Kong Telecom, which is owned by Cable & Wireless, and Hutchison Whampoa. Penetration of mobile phones in Hong Kong is among the highest at 40 per cent, and is predicted to hit 60 per cent by 2001.

Alfred Mockett, chief executive of BT's overseas opera-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

tions, said the deal took the group's spending in Asia-Pacific to more than £200m in recent years. Last year BT took a 23.5 per cent stake in the South Korean mobile operator LG Telecom and bought a third of Binarang, the Malaysian group.

"Until two years ago Asia was locked up like a drum," he said. "We believe it is the future engine of growth for our industry."

Mr Mockett said BT had identified Hong Kong as one of its eight key target markets in the region, and SmarTone had proved to be one of the best opportunities BT could find. However, he refused to comment on rumours that BT planned to take a stake in Japan Telecom.

BT will have three directors on SmarTone's board and will have nomination rights for the post of finance director.

although Mr Mockett said more funds may be needed when licences for the third generation of mobile phone services are auctioned in a few years' time. Last year SmarTone made a profit of HK\$1bn (£81m) on turnover of HK\$4.1bn.

Mr Mockett said BT was attracted by SmarTone's ownership of licences to run both 900 megahertz and 1,800 megahertz networks, allowing it to offer dual-band services attractive to business customers.

Other major shareholders in SmarTone include Sun Hung Kai Properties, a property development group controlled by the Kwok family; an investment vehicle run by Hong Kong's ministry of information; and Templeton, the US fund management group.

BT will have three directors on SmarTone's board and will have nomination rights for the post of finance director.

Royal & SunAlliance chief joins £1m-a-year club

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

worth of £687,000 or a further £388,000 increase in accrued pension last year.

The company said that Mr Mendelsohn's remuneration is meant to "put him in a position, after taking into account taxation and living cost differentials where he is no worse off than were he to perform the same duties for the group in his home country [the United States].

In addition, Mr Mendelsohn is entitled to a £1,000 a year to a further incentive award of shares worth £992,000 which he will be able to cash in in the event of certain criteria being met. These include a condition that over a three-year period growth in total shareholder return exceeds that of a basket of 12 leading UK, European and US insurers, and the share price rises by 5-20 per cent.

Mr Mendelsohn's sum package last year included a discretionary bonus of £225,000 and expatriate benefits of £190,000. But it does not include the award also made last year of options with a paper

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

At the same time, official aid from developed to developing countries has fallen substantially and the prospects for future aid remain bleak.

The Bank, the world's leading development institution, has slashed its growth forecast for developing countries to 1.5 per cent in 1999, down from its already-subdued December forecast of 2.7 per cent.

This would be the slowest growth recorded since 1982, at the height of the debt crisis, and full recovery is unlikely before 2001.

According to the report, capital inflows to developing countries from the financial markets collapsed from \$135.5bn (£83bn) in 1997 to \$72.1bn last year.

The World Bank, which often

plays soft cop to the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund's hard

cop on the world economic

stage, has rarely issued such an

outspoken report as this year's

Global Development Finance,

its annual summary on capital

flows.

Its gloomy conclusion that

the developing world will stag-

prices and the drop in exchange rates in many countries, which make up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). But the report says: "There is still a substantial risk that the world economy will plunge into recession in 1999."

There are several linked reasons for the gloom. One is the general slowdown in world growth and the expansion of world trade. A second is the sharp fall in commodity prices.

More important is the closure of world capital markets to emerging economies in the wake of the financial crisis. The report shows that foreign direct investment declined but held up far better than capital inflows from the financial markets. Thanks to the availability of assets at bargain-basement

prices and the drop in exchange rates in many countries, which make up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). But the report says: "There is still a substantial risk that the world economy will plunge into recession in 1999."

But the World Bank expects it to decline further this year, in line with weaker world trade growth and diminished profitability. In general, the recovery of capital flows will be slow, it predicts.

All is not bleak in the assessment. Some of the Asian crisis countries – notably South Korea and Thailand – are on the way to recovery as a result of their harsh IMF medicine.

But the report notes that even here, the tough macroeconomic policies and radical restructuring have exacted a harsh social cost. Unemployment in both countries tripled between 1996 and 1998.

CLASSIFIED

Contracts & Tenders

Contracts & Tenders

Legal Notices

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - PC USER TRAINING

The Employment Service (ES), an Executive Agency of the Department for Education and Employment is about to recompete its national contracts for the delivery of PC User Training. Expressions of interest are now invited from organisations capable of providing PC User Training. The new contract is planned to commence in October 1999 and will be for a period of three years with an option to extend for up to a further two years.

ES employs some 30,000 people in a network of over 1,000 local offices across England, Scotland and Wales. ES operations are delivered on a geographical basis covering Scotland, Wales and seven regions of England, these are Northern, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midland and Eastern, West Midlands, London and the South East and South West. The successful organisations will be expected to offer training which covers the geographical areas above including Sheffield where a number of ES Head Office sites are located.

ES is currently standardised on Microsoft Office Version 4.3 running on Microsoft Windows for Workgroups Version 3.11 including Groupwise which encompasses e-mail linking HO sites, regional and sub regional locations. ES is currently seeking training provision covering Word 6, Excel 5, Access 2, PowerPoint 4 and Project 4 though this may be subject to upgrading dependent on developments in our IT platform. At the moment ES has only a limited distance learning platform and this is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Interventions need not be tailored specifically as ES is willing to participate on generally available public domain material.

Organisations interested in tendering for this contract are invited to express their interest now. An information pack containing further information will then be issued and will include a Supplier Appraisal Questionnaire. The response to the questionnaire will be used to enable ES to draw up a shortlist of organisations to be invited to tender.

Expressions of interest should be made in writing to Victoria Hardman, Employment Service, Training and Development Division, Block B, Porterbrook House, Sheffield S1 8JE. Fax: 0114 259 7605 no later than 5.00pm 23 April 1999. Supplier Appraisal Questionnaires should be returned no later than 5.00pm 21 May 1999.

PLEASE NOTE: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED AFTER 5.00PM ON 23 APRIL 1999 AND SUPPLIER APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED BEYOND 5.00PM ON 21 MAY 1999 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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Fund	Self	Buy	++	Yld	Yld	Int.	Int.	Fund	Self	Buy	++	Yld	Int.	Int.	Fund	Self	Buy	++	Yld	Int.	Int.		
ABE AMBO Persberke Inv	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	UK Smaller Cos	142.10	153.40	-0.30	0.40	5.00	0.00	0.00	Change Envtl Inc	419.00	445.70	1.90	1.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alpha Pan European	48.33	51.41	-1.15	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	Class Fund	94.65	95.58	0.21	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	European Inv Inc	109.95	115.85	2.25	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goldman Sachs	246.47	247.47	-0.01	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	OverseasSwxInv	112.00	113.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	American Inv Inc	112.00	113.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Global Fund	378.77	378.77	-0.18	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	Reinsurance Fund	103.11	121.25	-2.61	0.00	5.25	0.00	0.00	AmericanSmc Inv	105.11	114.00	-1.87	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
High Income	105.70	105.70	-0.03	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	ReinsuranceSmc Inv	105.00	107.00	-0.30	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	AmericanSmc Inv	105.00	107.00	-0.30	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Alpha Trust Fund	108.35	112.07	-1.60	0.51	5.00	0.00	0.00	ReinsuranceSmc Inv	105.00	107.00	-0.30	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	Alpha Trust Fund	108.35	112.07	-1.60	0.51	5.00	0.00	0.00
4 British Bridge Lns, London	521.28	521.28	-0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	ReinsuranceSmc Inv	105.00	107.00	-0.30	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	4 British Bridge Lns, London	521.28	521.28	-0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
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DTI 0171 377 7797	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	American Inv	401.00	423.16	-0.40	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	American Inv	124.95	149.00	-0.71	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
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SPORT

The Masters: Nicklaus may be missing, but new superstars promise a thrilling battle for the famous Green Jacket

Woods relishes duel with Duval

BY ANDY FARRELL

in Augusta

SOme THINGS at the Masters never change. The prize fund for the 63rd playing of the tournament will be released quietly by officials of the Augusta National Golf Club over the weekend. Players know what Mark O'Meara won last year - \$576,000 - but this is the only event of the year where they tee off without the up-to-date prize breakdown.

Even the prize fund reaches the level of the Georgia State lottery this week - \$190m (£120m) - they would not care. Winning the title and getting to wear the Green Jacket denoting membership of the club is far more valuable.

Few other sporting events play on the aura of tradition as much as the Masters. Yet it is all an illusion. Changes happen all the time at Augusta but, like the new cluster of 18 trees between the 15th and 17th fairways, they appear to have been around forever.

It is less than 20 years since the greens were switched to bentgrass, the fastest putting surface, and 26 years since the dramatic 12th was shown on live television for the first time. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Sam Snead becoming the first player to be presented with the Green Jacket upon winning the event, while it only became the Masters in 1933, previously having been the Bobby Jones Invitational.

One tradition has come to an end. Jack Nicklaus, who underwent replacement hip surgery earlier this year, is not playing after 40 consecutive visits in which he won six times and provoked an outpouring of nostalgia with his sixth-place finish a year ago. "It is like your wife losing the diamond from her wedding ring," Greg Norman said of Nicklaus' absence.

But, in the great man's place, comes a contest to favour between Tiger Woods and David Duval. It is almost as if the rest of the field does not exist, which is as good a reason for getting a bet on an Ernie Els or a Lee Westwood.

The leading two stars are inseparable, however. Even Duval admits Woods is a star and Augusta is his patch. Having helped his mentor, O'Meara, into a Green Jacket last year, it is safe to assume that the 1997 record-breaking champion would like nothing more than to have O'Meara put a jacket on his shoulders.

Duval, the new world No 1, appears the man to stand in his way. Nothing seems to bother the man, not even being called a "duallard". "That's the way I like to play my golf, stress-free," he said. What does make him mad is having a double bogey on his card, but there have not been many of those recently.

A reserved character, Duval is none the less evolving under the spotlight into a class act, on and off the course. The latter has won four times this year and is the first man since Doug Sanders in 1966 to win the two weeks prior to the Masters.



Troublesome pines: Lee Westwood gets his first feel of the adjusted 17th hole, remodelled with new trees just to the right of the tee David Cannon/Allsport

THE TEE has been moved back 25 yards at Nandina to give the 425-yard, par-four 17th hole extra length.

Until last year, players could hit a pitching wedge into the green but will now be forced, depending on the wind, to play their approach with either an eight or a five iron.

Shifting the tee has brought the Eisenhower Pine, in the left-centre of the fairway, more into play for the medium to short hitters, who will have to work the ball round the tree. The big hitters, however, are unaffected, still being able to aim at and over it. The tree was so

named because the former US President hit it so often, he complained to have the pine removed.

A cluster of trees added to the right of the 15th fairway also comes into play on the right of the 17th, forcing those who have to hit around the Eisenhower Pine to

strike a right-to-left draw. Previously considered a weak penultimate hole, the changes to the 17th could have a telling effect on the 63rd Masters.

They are also the most controversial adjustments to the Augusta National, with the longest hitters re-

atively unaffected but others forced to shape their tee shot more precisely and hit a longer approach.

"Wow, what a tee shot," said the non-playing Jack Nicklaus. "The 17th needed something. It has played too short and too easy for a 17th hole for too long."

Two years ago Woods was out of sight by that time but Duval picks up the same theme. "You can't put a rivalry label on it yet because Tiger and I have not come down the last nine holes at the Masters or the US

Open or any other major. Until that comes to pass, it's hard to make the comparison with Nicklaus-Palmer or Nicklaus-Watson."

As for feeling that Duval is short on puff after the last two wins, forget it. "I won't have to rely on adrenalin. If you can't get pumped up for

the Masters, you need to do something else."

Colin Montgomerie, despite leaving last week's BellSouth Classic down in the dumps, has come around to that view. But it might not last. "Thursday is very important," the Scot said. "Hopefully, I can get off to a decent start, a 70 or 69. Then I could be up there on Sunday but if not, that is not a course where you want to be pressing to get back into it."

While Montgomerie's confidence is fragile, Westwood is buoyant, despite sleeping badly on Tuesday night with the symptoms of a heavy cold. On his third appearance at Augusta, the 25-year-old is feeling more comfortable at the venue. "There is nothing like actually playing somewhere competitively to give you experience," he said. "Having watched it on TV for so many years, I was a bit overwrought with the whole thing when I first came here."

Westwood plays with O'Meara and the US Amateur champion, Hank Kuehne, for the first two days. Due to the size of the field, with 96 players the fourth-largest ever, play will be in threeballs for the first two days for only the second time. For

the first time the draw will be flipped on Friday, as at other tournaments, rather than having the leaders of last in the second round.

"We wanted to make it fair for the players by giving them a morning and an afternoon time," said William "Hootie" Johnson, the new Augusta chairman. Along with the lengthening of the course, the addition of rough and a re-jigging of the exemption criteria, Johnson has presided over what appears to be radical changes. "We want to keep up with the game of golf worldwide," Johnson added. "But we take a little time to make up our minds." No change there, then.

FIVE TO TWEAK TIGER'S TAIL

FRED COUPLES

Led for the first three days in last year's Masters but the unflappable one took a dramatic double-boomerang sequence at the 13th, hitting one ball out of bounds and another into Rae's Creek, to lose out to Mark O'Meara. Helped by the most outrageous piece of luck when his ball stayed up on the bank in front of the 12th hole on the way to winning the 1992 Masters. In 14 Masters, has had eight top-10 finishes and has never been lower than 35th. Fourth in The Players' Championship two weeks ago.

ERINIE ELS

His eighth place finish on his debut in 1994 remains his best finish in the Masters. Considered a natural for Augusta with his length and his fine short game, the South African has lurked just outside the top-10 without threatening in the last three years. Known as the "Big Easy" after showing more patience than anyone else to win two US Opens, but can get rattled here. Beat Woods, Duval et al to win the Nissan Open in February but cooled in form since.

SHIGEKI MARUYAMA

Decided he wanted to be a professional at the age of 11 after he saw Tom Watson winning the 1981 Masters. He has been tipped to become the next top player from Japan by the great Jumbo Ozaki himself after winning three of the country's four Presidents' Cups last year, gaining Most Valuable Player nomination from his International team-mates for his 5-0 record. Missed the cut on his only Masters appearance last year but has had three top-10s in five tournaments around the world this year, plus a quarter-final showing at the World Matchplay.

VIJAY SINGH

He has the length but must have his putting - which can vary from very good to particularly bad - to be at its best. His Masters record is nothing to write home about. Has missed the cut twice in five appearances with a best of 17th two years ago. But has all the capabilities and now the confidence of being a major champion after winning the USPGA Championship in Seattle last August. While all the attention is on Duval and Woods, The Fijian could become the world's hottest player by winning back-to-back majors.

LEE WESTWOOD

It is time to find out if the Work-based 25-year-old is ready to take over the European mantle at the Masters? On form he is the main contender. Only Duval has more wins over the last 18 months and after a slow start to the season finished sixth at the Players two weeks ago. Natural fade will help to land his approach shots softly on the treacherous greens. Has results of 24th and 44th in previous two Masters but now says he is ready to compete with the best.

JOHN DALY

The tee shot is over water and the green slants significantly from right to left, making a pin on the right the toughest. Semi-circular putting is a common occurrence.

1998: 3.18 average (Rank 7). O'Meara: 4-3-3-3

1999: 4.25 average (Rank 12). O'Meara: 4-4-4-3

17th (Nandina), 425yds, par 4: Former President Eisenhower, a club member, hit the huge pine tree down the left so often he wanted it removed. Instead, it was named after him. A new back tee brings it more into play and there are trees on the right now as well.

1998: 4.10 average (Rank 12). O'Meara: 4-4-4-3

18th (Holly), 405yds, par 4: The drive down an avenue of trees favours a left-to-right shot to avoid the two bunkers. From the back one, Sandy Lyle hit a seven-iron to 10 feet and sank the putt to win in 1988.

1998: 4.13 average (Rank 11). O'Meara: 4-4-4-3

Garcia more than just a gifted amateur

Teenage Spaniard has ambitions beyond just making the cut. By Andy Farrell

THE LAST time the British Amateur champion made the cut at the Masters, Sergio Garcia was not born. But the 19-year-old Spaniard is hoping to succeed where others, including his compatriot Jose Maria Olazabal, failed in playing all 72 holes for the first time since Peter McEvoy in 1978.

That is not the limit of a player who is expected to turn professional in time for the Spanish Open in two weeks' time. Garcia is hoping to match Matt Kuchar's achievement in earning a return trip.

While Kuchar, the 1997 US Amateur champion, did so by finishing 21st last year, the bar has been raised

and Garcia must aim for the top 16. "If everything goes right, maybe I can get in the top 16," Garcia said. "That would be a good tournament."

Garcia has the lowest handicap ever recorded in Europe of +5.4. Having won everything in the amateur game, he has spent the last year playing European and Nike tour events, making 20 cuts in 27 events, the first at the age of 15. He already has one pro title to his name, the 1997 Catalan PGA.

Known as "El Nino" - the gift-

ed child - Garcia is the son of a club professional from Castellon, near Valencia. His world travels have been supported by a family friend, Jose Marquina, who is based in Miami.

Blessed with the modern power game of the tee, Garcia has also inherited the flair and imagination in shot-making and short game skills of Olazabal and Seve Ballesteros. "Garcia has helped me a lot at tournaments," Garcia said. "He has been like almost a second dad."

As well as practice rounds at Au-

gusta with Ballesteros, Garcia's preparations included playing in the Georgia Cup in Atlanta against his counterpart as US Amateur champion, Hank Kuehne, winning 6 and 4. Kuehne is thought to be a longer hitter than Tiger Woods and, like the 1997 Masters champion, hit a pitching wedge for his second shot at the 15th in practice.

Kuehne has shaved his head ever since undergoing rehabilitation for alcoholism four years ago. He admitted himself to the programme after being involved in a 65 mph car accident, in which fortunately no one was killed. Due to his rehab, he missed the 1995 Masters in which his

elder brother, Trip, played. Trip, the 1994 US Amateur runner-up to Woods, will caddie for Hank this year. Watching will be his sister, Kelli, a US Amateur champion in her own right and now an LPGA Tour player.

A student at Georgia Tech, Kuchar became a favourite with the gallery for his beaming smile. It was with the same countenance that he achieved a 14th-place finish at the US Open and, showing a taste for the big time, his stroke average is better in PGA Tour events than on the collegiate circuit.

"It's still very difficult to believe what the Masters brought me," said

Kuehne, who was treated in hospital on Tuesday for dehydration and flu-like symptoms, but should be able to play today. "I was pretty much an unknown going into the tournament but, when I left, it seemed everyone in the world knew who I was," he said.

No amateur has ever won the Masters, but that has not stopped Garcia dreaming. "The amateur field is pretty strong this year, so maybe we can do something good," he said. "It would be very difficult, but I think it is possible for someone to win. It would take the week of your life playing great, putting great, doing everything right."

4th (Flowering Crab Apple), 205yds, par 3: A slight dog-leg with a huge bunker on the right which is a 257-yard carry. The plateau green is treacherous. Hence its ranking as the toughest hole last year.

1998: 4.41 average (Rank 1). O'Meara: 3-4-3-4

5th (Magnolia), 435yds, par 4: Jack Nicklaus holed his approach here twice in three days in 1995, but the growing of rough around the course could have a big effect here, making it harder to control shots to the viciously sloping green.

1998: 4.74 average (Rank 10). O'Meara: 4-4-4-4

6th (Juniper), 180yds, par 3: Jose Maria Olazabal lost by one in 1991 after taking seven here in the second round. There is a huge tier in the green and only a precise shot can get close to the flag when it is on the ledge back right.

1998: 3.24 average (Rank 4). O'Meara: 3-3-3-3

7th (Pampas), 365yds, par 4: A real dog-leg opportunity. An iron off the tee leaves a pitch to a narrow green surrounded by bunkers.

1998: 4.01 average (Rank 15). O'Meara: 5-4-4-4

8th (Yellow Jasmine), 550yds, par 5: Reachable in two for only the long hitters as there is a steep climb from fairway to green. There is trouble left of the green, but Bruce Devlin did not see that in 1967 - he achieved an albatross two.

1998: 4.87 average (Rank 16). O'Meara: 5-4-5-5

9th (Carolina Cherry), 430yds, par 4: Not a very testing drive, but then comes the difficult part. The green tilts from back to front, and it is possible to roll back off the green and 50 yards more down the slope in front.

1998: 4.03 average (Rank 14). O'Meara: 4-5-5-4

10th (Camellia), 485yds, par 4: A dramatic hole which plays down the hill. Players try to find the left-hand side of the fairway, which is the third, control of spin is essential to finish close.

1998: 4.16 average (Rank 8). O'Meara: 5-4-4-5

11th (White Dogwood), 455yds, par 4: The start of Amen Corner, where Nick Faldo won his two play-offs, and Larry Mize chipped in to beat Greg Norman in 1987. The green has been raised since last year.

1998: 4.16 average (Rank 9). O'Meara: 4-3-4-4

12th (Golden Bell), 155yds, par 3: The best-known par three in golf. It is the shortest of the four short holes, but the wind swirls, and club selection is all-important. Anything on the slender green brings a sigh of relief. Tom Weiskopf took 13 in 1980.

1998: 3.32 average (Rank 2). O'Meara: 4-2-2-3

13th (Azalea), 485yds, par 5: A sharp dog-leg left which can produce anything from an albatross - Jeff Maggert five years ago - to Tommy Nakajima's 13 in 1978. Rae's Creek runs down the left-hand side and then in front of the green.

1998: 4.74 average (Rank 18). O'Meara: 5-4-4-5

14th (Chinese Fir), 405yds, par 4: No bunkers but joint course record holder Nick Price managed to run up an eight years ago. The green is one of the most undulating, and attacking the flag can be dangerous.

1998: 4.18 average (Rank 6). O'Meara: 5-4-4-4

15th (Firethorn), 500yds, par 5: A very different hole to last year. No mounds on the right, instead a group of tall trees will penalise any pushed drive. Most players will still try to cross the water and make the green in two.

1998: 5.09 average (Rank 13). O'Meara: 5-4-4-3

16th (Redbud), 170yds, par 3: The tee shot is over water and the green slants significantly from right to left, making a pin on the right the toughest. Semi-circular putting is a common occurrence.

Why devolution does not suit British sport



KEN JONES

A FEW days ago even people who don't give tennis a second thought unless the fuzz ball is flying around at Wimbledon were held enthralled by the stirring effort put in by Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski when representing Great Britain against the United States in the Davis Cup.

Of course, any sporting tissue in opposition to our former transatlantic colonies can have the effect of one nation, one flag but the fervour generated by a packed house at the Birmingham Indoor Arena last weekend had special significance.

If unlikely to have weakened the resolve of those who see no

creation with the term "British" for fear of offending the Scots, Welsh or Irish. And yet some of our most enduring sports memories have resulted from the setting aside of cultural differences in a common cause.

If one outcome of the upsurge in nationalism is that a new sports picture replaces the old it doesn't necessarily amount to progress.

A Welsh victory over England at Wembley on Sunday would thrill me no end but it would be a great shame if developments in world rugby since the advent of professionalism put paid to the Lions.

When, some years ago, I was invited by Uefa, the governing body of European football, to

set down views on this in its official magazine, a call came from the late Ted Croker who was then secretary of the Football Association. It became abundantly clear from our conversation that the FA would argue against publication of the article unless it conformed to their hidebound position.

One of the few things upon which I find myself in agreement with the sports minister, Tony Banks, is that we should have one not four national football teams.

When, some years ago, I was invited by Uefa, the governing body of European football, to

national tournaments. In fact, George Best, who is perhaps the outstanding post-war British player, never appeared in the World Cup finals.

If you want to know why Great Britain no longer send a football team to the Olympics look no further than the determination of the authorities to block any loophole that could be expanded to strip away the perks of autonomy.

The differences between us are not easily understood abroad. For instance, Americans are a damn sight clearer about what it means to be Scots or Irish than to be Welsh despite the fact that the first and only

president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, was of Welsh descent. Thus, Richard Burton was thought of as an English actor, as is Anthony Hopkins.

When Colin Jones of Wales was in the United States preparing to meet Milton McCrory for the World Boxing Council welterweight championship the New York Times described him as an English boxer. Never one to let an insult slide Jones sought out the offending author and gave him what for: "Call me British if you like," Jones growled, "but I'm Welsh not bloody English. I'm as Welsh as Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey." "Tom Jones

and Shirley Bassey?" came the reply. "You mean they're not English."

A fault of the English is to think themselves British when it suits them. Following England's failure to reach the 1974 World Cup finals a number of English football writers who had been assigned to cover Scotland showed up at Hampden Park for a friendly against West Germany. "Didn't take you long to jump on the bandwagon. Suppose we're all British now," was the kindest thing said to them.

Last week we were. Not for the first time in sport and, if I've got it right, not for the last.

Five Nations' Championship: Teenage wing out of the Lomu mould earns debut in Grand Slam finale at Wembley

Hanley called in to worry Wales

BY CHRIS HEWETT

beamed Woodward. "We're talking pedigree here, real fire-power. I'm genuinely excited at the prospect of seeing him play at the highest level."

Quite how Hanley will be used against the Welsh, who possess two out-sized wings of their own in Gareth Thomas and Dafydd James, rather depends on Jeremy Guscott. The Bath centre was duly named in the side yesterday and was described by Woodward as "100 per cent fit". However, the coach added that he would continue to monitor his longest-serving back throughout the week, which suggested that Guscott had yet to stretch his fragile hamstring in training.

If the maestro fails to make a Wembley date positively dripping in sentimentality - it marks the passing of the Five Nations' Championship, which becomes the Six Nations next year, and will almost certainly be the final union international to be played beneath the twin towers - Hanley may well find himself in his Aspatria position of centre. Austin Healey, back in business after eight weeks in the cooler for stamping on the face of the London Irish scrum-half Kevin Purt, is on the bench, as is Nick Beal, and both could play wing if required.

"I have no problems with bringing Austin straight back in from suspension," said Woodward, who will undoubtedly receive an ear-bashing from some quarters for his hasty rehabilitation of the Leicester miscreant. "I'm not here to judge anyone. All I know is that Austin is available and while two months on the sides might have affected some players it's not an issue with him. He's one of the fittest players in the whole squad."

As per usual, Woodward's favourite pack is retained en bloc: the Leicester-dominated forward eight have been to

gether since last November's

Cook Cup match with Australia

and, all things being equal, are

unlikely to change before the

World Cup. John Mitchell, the

assistant coach with special

responsibility for lashing the

heavy brigade into shape, is

looking for a "major statement"

on Sunday. "We're off our

game a little against France, so

I'm looking to go up a gear," he

said, much as he did before last

year's corresponding fixture.

On that occasion, England

scored 60. The Welsh have been

warned.



Gregor Townsend has given Scotland something to cheer in the Five Nations' Championship and now the No 10 has France in his sights on Saturday

Empics

Townsend the Brive rides again

Scotland's swashbuckling stand-off has heeded his French lessons and is hoping to turn them on the hosts at Stade de France. By Chris Hewett

CONTRARY TO popular opinion in some of the more one-eyed rugby outposts of the British Isles - Pontypridd springs instantly to mind, thanks to that notoriously lively night in Le Bar Touzac some 18 months ago - the small French town of Brive is no no-go area for those possessing a cell or two of Celtic blood in their veins. In fact, the respectable burghers of the Corrèze are really quite keen on the polite, quietly-spoken Scotsman who has taken possession of a tatty little pied-à-terre overlooking the market square for the duration of his stay with the local side.

Whether the Brivistes will still feel like clutching Gregor Townsend to the communal breast this time next week rather depends on what happens in St-Denis on Saturday. Should Scotland achieve a second springtime victory in Paris in the space of four years to complete an unexpectedly meaningful challenge for the Five Nations title, Townsend will no doubt be on the receiving end of the odd Gallic barb. Moreover, if the most imaginative British stand-off of the decade should add insult to injury by winning his one-on-one battle of wits with Thomas Castaignede, the bottle-blond darling of the Tricolore aristocracy, he could find his next helping of truffle soup spiced with something nasty.

On the other hand, it may well be that Townsend will continue to be lionised by all who spend their Sunday afternoons at the Parc Municipal des Sports, irrespective of events at the Stade de France. Brive, the 1997 European champions and beaten finalists a year later, have come alive again after a

yes, he's good," says the No 10 of his No 12. "John is the sort of player who makes a stand-off feel good about himself, just by being there outside him. He's always desperate for the ball which suits me fine because I always want to do something with the ball once we've won it.

Not that the Brive backline could be described as average - not with Philippe Carboneau and Lisandro Arbizu sandwiching the outside-half from Edinburgh, and David Venditti, Pascal Bonatti, Sébastien Carrat and Christophe Lamaison prowling

the wide open prairies. No, it is Scotland's bread-and-butter back division that the maestro has pulled, pushed and prodded into the stratosphere over the past nine weeks or so. And to think, Jim Telfer was

planning to make a full-back of him! People have been burned at the stake for lesser heresies.

Typically, Townsend deflects

much of the praise in the direction of his new straight man, John Leslie, an apparently inexhaustible repository of New Zealand know-how who has

tightened Scotland's midfield

act to tourנית level. "Oh

Townsend supporter did not get to coach three Lions parties by asking his best players to be less inspired.

Yet Townsend is not always

so full of self-confidence as his brilliance would suggest. "That Lions tour was very important to me because I needed to prove to myself that I could play at the very top level. It's where I most enjoy playing, always have done, but for various reasons, I haven't always been picked there. I find I need to convince myself over and over again, especially when I've spent a fair bit of time playing in a different position."

If there is one allegation

Townsend's critics have seldom

hesitated to throw in his face,

it is one of immaturity. Not, of course, immaturity - during the 1997 Lions tour, to which he contributed immeasurably more than was given credit for; he did not touch a drop until the series was won - but in his reluctance to cut his coat to suit the available cloth. Too often, according to the nay-sayers, his ideas fizzle into nothing; there are no percentages to his play: no steady hand on the tiller, no discipline. In other words, he should be far more boring.

It will never be Townsend's

way, thank the Lord. Ian McGeechan, who coached him at club level last season and also picked him ahead of Neil Jenkins as the Lions' stand-off in South Africa, is fond of saying that "Gregor's thought processes are a yard quicker than everyone else's". That should be read as praise, not criticism. McGeechan, a big

barely taken a backward glance since: even though they allowed England to sneak a win at Twickenham a fortnight later, they claimed a moral victory.

"I missed opportunity for

sure," says Townsend, a try-scorer that day. "We had that English defence at sixes and sevens, especially after half-time, and I don't think anyone would have been too outraged had we gone on to win the match. We're still making the breaks - we made them against Italy and also against the Irish - but we're more confident now, more aware of our own ability

which is ideal from Jim's point of view."

Quite where Townsend will play his rugby after this autumn's showpiece tournament remains unclear: he has an option for another season with Brive, but he may indulge his wanderlust once more and look to broaden his rugby education - and his life in general - elsewhere. "I'm loving Brive, and learned some of the language," he says. "Just as importantly, the domestic championship has really taken off these last few weeks. I found the club game here a little flat at first, but since we reached the last 16 stage, all the colour and buzz you associate with French rugby has appeared. The whole town came out for a recent game with Montferrand and it was exactly what I came to experience."

"Still, there are other things I want to do. Super 12 rugby

down in the southern hemisphere fascinates me; I'd love to give that a whirl some day."

"At the same time, the Allied Dunbar Premiership is going from strength to strength and, with the English clubs back in Europe, there will be a lot going on at home next season. I don't really have any master plan. I want to be challenged and I want to try new things. That's all."

It is a stone cold certainty that Townsend will try new things at the Stade de France on Saturday afternoon and that his duel with Castaignede will tickle the fancy of every aficionado in town. If, as in 1995, Townsend makes this championship his own, the most adventurous rugby spirit of the age will surely win over all those critics who live their lives a yard off the pace.

'That Lions tour was important. I needed to prove I could play 10 at the top level. I find I need to convince myself over and over'

'We had the English at sixes and sevens. If we had been a little bit more aware we could be chasing a Slam this weekend'

If we'd been that little bit more aware at Twickenham, we could be chasing a Slam this weekend.

"We'll take a good deal out of this tournament, though, regardless of the result this weekend; after all, we've had to play the whole thing without Bryan Redpath, our captain before Christmas, and a lot of it without Doddie Weir. When you add Jamie Mayer, Matt Proudfit and Gordon Simpson to the unavailability, we look pretty strong going into the World Cup. Those of us who are in the starting line-up now are going to have to sweat for our places.

INTERNATIONAL LINE-UPS	
ENGLAND TEAM	(to play Wales at Wembley on Sunday)
W. Perry (Bath); D. Leger (Harlequins); J. Millington (Newcastle); J. Gower (Bath); S. Hadley (Nottingham); M. Catt (Bath); M. Davies (Worcester); R. Cuthbert; D. Garside; M. Johnsons (all Leicester); T. Rotherham (Nottingham); R. Hill (Scarlets); L. Daugell (Wales, capt.); N. Beck (Leicester); W. Williams (Bath); A. Healey (Leicester); V. Ulubes (Bath); N. McCarthy (Gloucester); S. Archer (Newcastle); M. Carty (Leicester).	(to play Scotland in Paris on Saturday)
FRANCE TEAM	

Facts support Henderson's National case

A trainer who has endured agonising near misses in Aintree's showpiece has his challenger primed for success this year. By Richard Edmondson

A WEEK AGO today Nicky Henderson's Grand National dreams were reduced to tatters. The Lambourn trainer was informed that his Amazonian mare, *Fiddling The Facts*, was no longer qualified to run in the great race.

"This fax came on some official Aintree newspaper telling us that mares were being banned because they distracted the geldings," says Henderson. "I was momentarily in despair. And then he noticed the date in the corner of his newspaper."

It is easier to joke about the Grand National before you actually arrive at Aintree and witness those great Andes of spruce punctuating a bleak Merseyside landscape. Nicholas John Henderson has ridden successfully over the Liverpool fences and has also come fiendishly close to winning the big one in his 19 attempts as a trainer. He has heard the opinions that modifications have made the contest as terrifying as a wicker basket full of kittens. He does not believe them. For Henderson this remains a race apart.

"If you win the Gold Cup you've probably got the best horse and this is a handicap and not everyone's cup of tea," he says, "but it's the history, the pageantry that goes with the race, that makes it unique. It gives everyone a buzz."

"The National is a world event and it's very special. They've really built it back up in recent years to the event it should be. Sure the fences have been modified since the old days, but I'm certainly not going to say it's an easy race. I'm as frightened now about running horses as I ever was riding in it."

'Sure the fences have been modified but I'm not going to say it's an easy race. I'm as frightened about running horses as I was riding in it'

hats (a trifly for a helmet) and began training at Windsor House in Lambourn he was gifted a horse called *See You Then*.

This was a malevolent creature which would kill if his domain was breached. He did however accomplish a similar act to opponents on the racecourse and, in 1987, completed a hat-trick in the Champion Hurdle. "He's taken loads of chunks out of me over the years," Henderson said at the time. "I give him a carrot every night and he still hates me."

By 1992, however, Henderson had become too popular. He did a yard swap with Peter Walwyn and moved to the larger Seven Barrows barracks just down the road, the premises which had nurtured the 1975 Derby winner, Grundy.

If this well-named runner

had been more than a tinge scared even when he won at the old place. That was in 1977, when Happy Warrior collected the Foxhunters' Chase as his jockey did a fair impression of a barnacle. There was a bit hairy because unfortunately we didn't have a breastgirth on the horse and the saddle finished round his tail," Henderson says. "It was a bit scary at the time, but fun when you look back on it."

Henderson himself can reflect on a six-year amateur-riding career which spawned 75 winners. When he changed

run in the Grand National have not managed to land on four hooves over the first fence.

"It's extraordinary isn't it," he says, "especially as you try to pick the right ones for the race. It's a different race and you don't take running a horse in this race lightly because there are still difficult obstacles. The top priority is that the horses all come back in one piece and after that we'll just see how we go."

"I don't think we'll dare watch the start on Saturday. It's a good job you can't see much at Liverpool because it's all you can do to force yourself to watch the race."

Fiddling The Facts has certainly been worth watching throughout the season. She was third to Teetot Mill on her seasonal debut in the Hennessy Gold Cup and has finished runner-up on her

subsequent starts – to Kendal Cavalier in the Welsh National, Him Of Praise in Uttoxeter's National Trial and, most recently, to Young Kenny in the Grand National Trial at Haydock.

"The 10th 3lb on soft ground at Aintree is far better for her. It's the 10th 3lb on soft ground at Aintree is far better for her.

she is by Orchestra out of the Fury Glen mare. Facts 'N' Fancies succeeds on Saturday she will be the first of her gender to do so since Nickel Coin in 1951.

"We were always really thinking of the Irish National for her but we've got drawn into this as she's got to have top weight on drying ground at Fairyhouse," Henderson says.

"The 10th 3lb on soft ground at Aintree is far better for her.

"She's had only four races and certainly tiredness won't be a factor. The horses that had hard races at Cheltenham are entitled to be more weary than she is. She's had a nice break."

Nicky Henderson remains in good form after an astonishingly rewarding spring which has taken him to fourth place in the trainers' championship. Another winner at Ascot yes-

terday took him to 65 successes for the campaign. Numbers though do not mean as much as they once did. Now it is their identity which matters most.

"We have got very close to the Grand National in the past," he says. "I'm very keen to crack it."

That eventuality would cer-

tainly lead to a volley of celebratory faxes. Some of them might even be genuine.

AINTREE

HYPERTON

2.00 Piped Aboard 4.20 Hors La Loi III
2.35 Escartefigue 4.50 Sraffan Cross
3.10 DAWN LEADER (nap) 5.20 Pharaear
3.45 Mely Moss

GOING: Grand National course – Good (Soft in places); Midway Course & Hurdle track – Good (Soft in places).
2.00 1st-left-hand course: Grand National circuit is 2 miles and triangular with a steep drop on the landing side. Males are up to 100lb and females, 90. A flat course. 2.35 1st-left-hand course: Grand National circuit is 2 miles and triangular with a steep drop on the landing side. Males are up to 100lb and females, 90. A flat course. 3.10 1st-left-hand course: Grand National circuit is 2 miles and triangular with a steep drop on the landing side. Males are up to 100lb and females, 90. A flat course. 3.45 1st-left-hand course: Grand National circuit is 2 miles and triangular with a steep drop on the landing side. Males are up to 100lb and females, 90. A flat course.

FAVOURITES: 2.00 1st-left-hand course: 2nd-favourite (22.7%). A Dobbyn 9-28 (32.1%), N Williamson 6-55 (14.2%). 2.35 1st-left-hand course: 2nd-favourite (22.7%).

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FORM GUIDE

Joe Mac: Strong performer just outstayed in Champion Bumper at Cheltenham last year. Easy winner at Naas and Leopardstown prior to 17-length 2nd to Hors La Loi at Cheltenham (going well three out). Obviously chasing in a seemingly weaker race. Grand National: Up to fresh after the last Boxing Day run from Jung at Kempton. Previous 2-length winner of race at Windsor. Likely to play prominent part with sharp course to suit.

Siskander A: Azam: Won here in November and followed up from Prince Babbler at Doncaster. Well beaten in Naas last time. 10th to Kathryn's Hat at Doncaster and looks out for a return.

Arctic Fancy: Mud winner at Plumpton and Folkestone and surprise 3rd on faster surface to Hors La Loi 1st at Cheltenham (7 lengths behind Joe Mac). Soft track to sharp course.

Brilliant Star: Twice beaten at Ludlow before last. Good (Soft in places). Still needs to improve a lot to cope with these roads.

Lord Lamb: Smart bumper and hurdles winner who had a warm up run on the Flat 12 days ago (1st in 3rd). Last time (Naas) went over the eye of the steeple. Slight 4th on the flat on first run in a very soft track. Roly Spender in soft ground. Heats: Decent mare who gained 4th win when defying expectation in handicap at Newbury. Still tame back against some smart novices.

Piped Aboard: Disappointed on Flat even when tamed blinder. Hurdles winner on debut and 3rd length 8th to Katalina in Triumph at Cheltenham. Course should suit and breed in a vice.

VERDICT: Joe Mac is chasing a consolation prize after being thrashed by Hors La Loi at Cheltenham. But the doubt is his ability to run to his best on a sharp course.

The progressive Grecian Dart is just the type to go well fresh and the course should suit him having won at Windsor and Kempton. Lord Lamb made a pleasing reappearance in a Flat race at Doncaster 12 days ago and he had looked very decent until he was outdistanced in the mud by Major Sponsor at Naas, our chance is taken with Piped Aboard, who in a vice after an improved showing in the Triumph Hurdle.

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Although it will be the 10th year of the tournament in Europe, the European Cup has never been held in the UK. The tournament has been held in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands. The tournament has been held in the UK only once, in 1990, when the tournament was held in London.

Appearing in the tournament on the UK's behalf, England would be the first to effect a change in the tournament's structure.

Wenger
defends
carded
Keown



Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy removes the bails of West Indian batsman Jimmy Adams during the fifth day of the final Test in St John's, Antigua, yesterday AP

Australians tie up victory

DESPITE a dogged innings of 56 from the opener Adrian Griffith, Australia ran through the West Indian tail-end batsmen to win the fourth and final Test by 176 runs here yesterday. The tourists retain the Frank Worrell Trophy by drawing the series 2-2.

The Australians took two wickets during the morning session to reduce the West Indies, set a daunting target of 388, to 156 for 6 at lunch.

Resuming at 105 for 4, the West Indies were quickly in deeper trouble when Jimmy Adams, their main hope of holding out for a draw, was dismissed leg-before by the leg-spinner Stuart MacGill for 56.

Colin Miller, who bowls both medium pace and spin and was called up in place of the leg-spinner Shane Warne, utilised his off-spin to have Adams smartly stumped by Ian Healy for 56.

Griffith and Ridley Jacobs added 40 to see off Australia's mainstay attack and it was the occasional bowler Greg

CRICKET
By TONY COZIER
in St John's, Antigua

Australia 303 & 306
West Indies 222 & 211
Australia win by 176 runs
Four-Test series drawn 2-2

Blewett who made the next breakthrough, trapping Jacobs leg-before for 16 for his second wicket of the innings.

Nehemiah Perry and Griffith survived until the lunch interval but the opener, who had retired hurt on Tuesday before resuming his innings, was dismissed leg-before by the leg-spinner Stuart MacGill for 56.

Perry hit out and reached 26 before he was caught by Michael Slater of MacGill. The rest of the tail did not resist for long. Curtly Ambrose was bowled by MacGill for four while Corey Collymore was caught by the leg-spinner off Glenn McGrath for six.

Australia's only setback of the day came off the field when

McGrath was fined 30 per cent of his match fee for bringing the game into disrepute over an incident at the end of Tuesday's play. He was severely reprimanded by the match referee, Raman Subba Row, for spitting on the pitch after bowling the last ball of the day.

It was accepted that McGrath did not spit at Griffith, as

he had not been at the wicket.

With Mike Atherton injured and Andy Flintoff, Ian Austin and Neil Fairbrother in Sharjah, the Red Rose county will take a number of youngsters to Fener's and they are likely to give a first-class debut to the 22-year-old seam bowler Michael Smethurst.

Warren Hegg, Peter Martin and the two senior spinners, Gary Keedy and Gary Yates, are rested, which means that the

home team had complained, but Subba Row said that spitting of any sort would not be condoned.

On Tuesday evening, McGrath had won the final round of his intriguing duel with Brian Lara, the West Indian captain.

Lara, whose spectacular batting exploits had earned West Indies an unexpected 2-1 lead

in the four-match series, fell leg before to the combative McGrath for just seven.

McGrath's high quality pace bowling had earlier in the evening brought him the wicket of the opener Sherwin Campbell. He also removed McGrath from the action when the opener was forced to retire hurt after being struck a painful blow on

the point of the elbow by a lifting McGrath delivery.

Lara and McGrath have been the two sides' outstanding performers in an absorbing series. Despite the failure in his final innings, Lara averaged 91 from 546 runs, McGrath finished with 30 wickets, falling three short of the total he needed to become Australia's leading wicket-taker in a series against the West Indies. Clarke Grimmett and Alan Davidson held the record with 33 in a five-Test series.

Final day, Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA - First Innings 303 (5 R Waugh, 7 J Langer, 51 C L Ambrose 5-54)

WEST INDIES - First Innings 222 (C L Lara, 127, M E Vaughan 65)

AUSTRALIA - Second Innings 306 (J Langer, 127, M E Vaughan 65)

WEST INDIES - Second Innings 211 (C L Lara, 127, M E Vaughan 65)

Overnight: 105 (5 R Waugh, 7 J Langer, 51 C L Ambrose 5-54)

McGill (AUS) vs A Miller 18

Subba Row vs Blewett 18

N C Parris vs MacGill 18

C E Ambrose vs MacGill 6

C D Collymore vs MacGill 6

A V Hart vs MacGill 6

B Hinds vs D Offs 20

Total (102.5 overs) 211

Fall (contd): 5-105, 6-1-5, 7-184, 8-190, 9-209

Bowling: McGrath 35-12-50-3, Date 12-5,

26-1, MacGill 24-8-8-3, Miller 21-10-2,

Blewett 8-3-2

Umpires: S A Bucher (WI) and D L Orchard (SA)

Awesome
O'Sullivan
hits form

SNOOKER

JOHN HIGGINS, the holder, and Ronnie O'Sullivan, a former champion, cruised through to the last 16 of the British Open in Plymouth last night.

Higgins, the current world champion, knocked out the Ulsterman, Terry Murphy 5-1, while O'Sullivan, the world No 3, went one better whitewashing Paul Davies 5-0. O'Sullivan produced a high quality performance and he finished with a break of 134 to add to his previous scores of 51, 40, 68 and 97.

"That was a bit more like it," said the 22-year-old from Chigwell. "My first round match with Tony Jones wasn't much of a spectacle, but today, I was a lot happier with the way I played." O'Sullivan, winner of this event in 1995, next plays the Yorkshire qualifier Jimmy Mickle or Scotland's Marcus Campbell.

Higgins has reached the last 16 dropping only one frame in the process. He did not score as heavily as O'Sullivan to beat the left-handed Murphy, but was solid throughout the match and now takes on Nottingham's Michael Holt. "Terry has played much better than me, so I didn't have to work too hard," said Higgins. "It will probably be tougher against Michael because he's a very good potter and looks a capable player."

With the world No 7 Peter Ebdon securing a last frame decider to defeat Mark Gray, only one of the top eight seeds has so far failed to reach their allotted place in the draw - Scotland's Alan McManus.

SPORTING DIGEST

BADMINTON

AMERICAN League Minnesota 6 Toronto 5; Sp. 5; Philadelphia 5; Cleveland 5; NY Yankees 7; Oakland 4; Chicago White Sox 11; Atlanta 10; San Francisco 8; Boston 9; St. Louis 8; San Diego 4; Colorado 2; NY Mets 12; Florida 3; Pittsburgh 8; Milwaukee 2; Cincinnati 1; Texas 4; New York 2; Chicago Cubs 2; Los Angeles 5; Arizona 2 (10 losses).

BASKETBALL

PHILADELPHIA 95 Milwaukee 87; Miami 22; Toronto 10; Cleveland 95; Orlando 89; Orlando 81; New York 72; New Jersey 97; Washington 93; Houston 111; Golden State 12; Seattle 105 (ext); Lakers 88; LA Clippers 12; Sacramento 105 (ext); Phoenix 88; LA Clippers 83; Utah 106 (ext); Lakers 93.

CRICKET

A Colombo court yesterday issued an order freezing Thilanga Sumathipala, the Sri Lanka Cricket Board president, from carrying out his duties while the court investigates allegations of intimidation in the election for the post. The defeated candidate, Arifford Ratnayake, and his gun-carrying supporters had prevented officials from casting their votes in the election on 28 March.

CRICKET

A Colombo court yesterday issued an order freezing Thilanga Sumathipala, the Sri Lanka Cricket Board president, from carrying out his duties while the court investigates allegations of intimidation in the election for the post. The defeated candidate, Arifford Ratnayake, and his gun-carrying supporters had prevented officials from casting their votes in the election on 28 March.

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Fixture changes: Sat 18 Apr: Ayr v Clydebank; Berwick v Cowdenbeath 1745p; (Sp) Eastgate 2100c.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30pm: United stated
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP
SUB-FINAL: FIRST LEG
Chelsea v Real Mallorca (745).

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
Hereford v Kings Norton (745).

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH CHALLENGE TROPHY
SEMI-FINAL: FIRST LEG
Doncaster v Nuneaton (745).

FOOTBALL

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP E
(from 10pm)

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Fleet v Chesham (745); Fylde Division: Fleetwood v Morecambe (745); Second Division: Thame v Horsham. League Cup semi-final second leg: Aldershot (3) v Bromley (1).

SHREWFORD IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Shrewsbury v Llanelli (745); RYMAN LEAGUE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Dundalk v Shelbourne (745).

CRICKET

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

The cynicism... The vicious, despising capitalists who crush hope and enterprise... The overbites... Yes, we are back in the world according to Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, the most successful cartoon of the decade and one of the greatest television series ever to emerge from America.

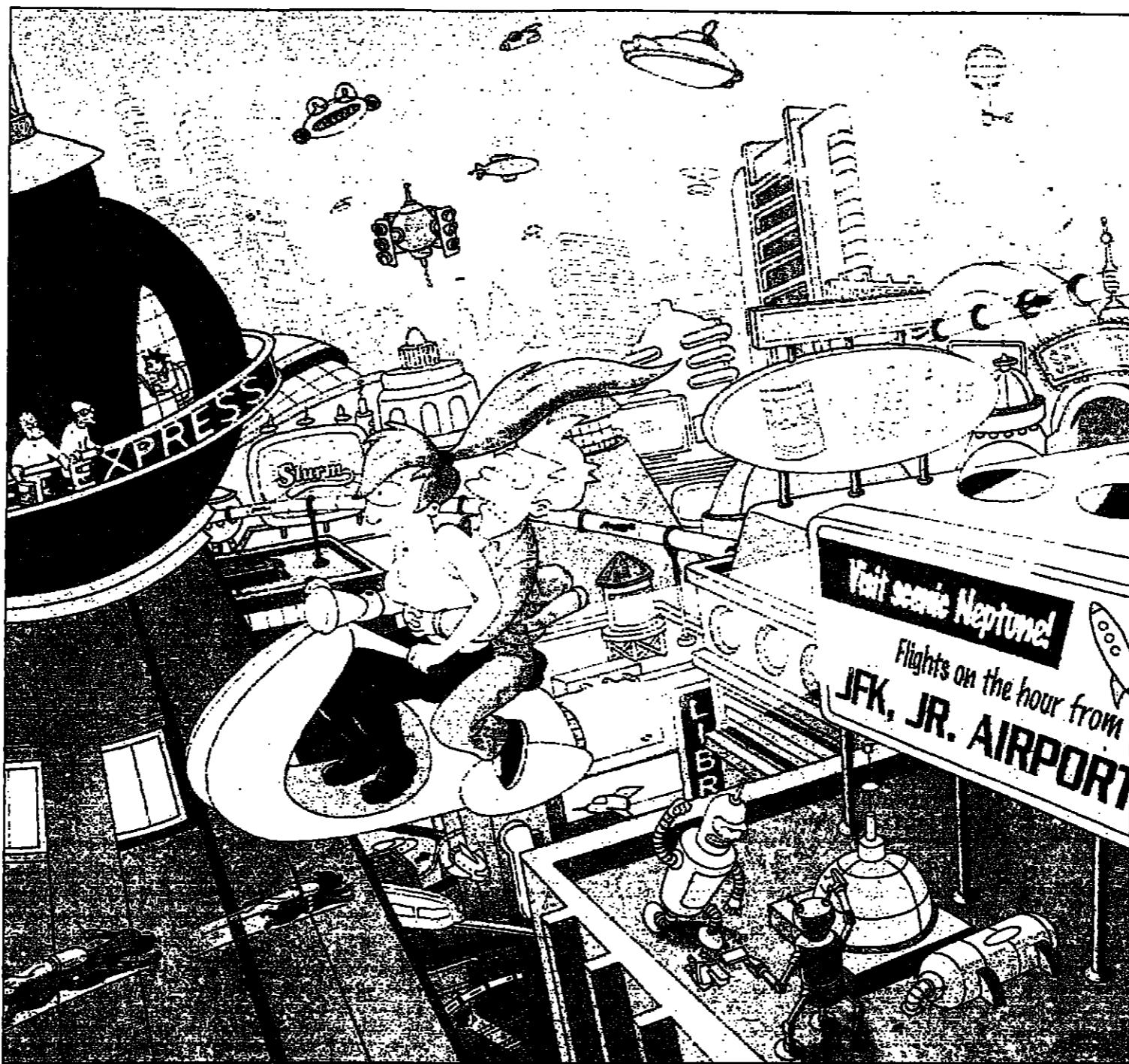
Futurama, which started showing earlier this month and will be screened in this country by Sky One from September, is his latest effort and, like its predecessor, it proves that the only way that American television today can be provocative, funny and original is through cartoons. The humour that Groening extracts from human venality, fascist business and nasty little personal habits would never be permitted in the dreary, formulaic sitcoms that US network television churns out on a production line.

But it is also just the latest in a series of cartoons targeted at an adult audience, all of them owing something to Homer and his family. *Futurama* has its debut, ironically, just as the bandwagon started by Groening a decade ago is looking a little top heavy.

Futurama is set in the year 3000, when a pizza delivery man called Fry emerges from a time capsule to find a world that is... quite like the present one, but better drawn. There are futuristic Irish bars called "O'Zorgnax's". Fry refuses to take a four-dimensional apartment because "we are not going to pay for a dimension we don't use". The most fashionable part of Manhattan to live in is the Upper-Upper West Side, a mile above West 86th Street. The world is run by a fascist giant corporation. Motto: "you gotta do what you gotta do." And poor Fry, who initially sees his thousand-year journey as a chance to change his life, is instructed by a "fate assignment officer" that his job has been determined by a machine: he is to be a delivery boy. "Have a nice future," he is told cheerily. It is a close relative of *Red Dwarf*, the BBC series which turned science fiction inside out and introduced the word "smeg" to the everyday vocabulary of pre-teens.

This is a long way from Springfield, the small town where life is nasty, brutish and funny-coloured. We are in the future, we are in space, and the characters include a mendacious and vulgar robot called Bender. All the same, "there was a lot in *Futurama* to keep a *Simpsons* fan happy", as fan Jordan Hoffman wrote in *LeisureNet*, an Internet magazine. "The cynicism, the hackneyed jokes, the minutiae filling every frame, and yes, it does seem that Bender the robot... looks like a silver Homer." Bender, as well as being a heavy drinker and smoker, has a deep interest in pornography - circuit diagrams count as one-handed reading. In space, no one can see you... well, you get the idea.

A decade ago Groening took a medium that was out of fashion and used it to create one of the greatest television series ever, with characters who defined the Nemeses. It started out in 1987 as 30-second spots set in the *Tracey Ullman* show, then graduated to its own slot on Rupert Murdoch's Fox channel. Since then it has been massively successful for him and for Fox, earning hundreds of millions of dollars in product sales and syndication around the world. Bart Simpson, who was once regarded as a kind of juvenile John Wayne, a threat to the morals of the nation, is now one of the best-known faces in



BY ANDREW MARSHALL

Subversion in a cartoon world



A decade has passed since Matt Groening broke the animation mould with *The Simpsons*. Now he's seen the future, and it's better drawn. In his sci-fi satire, the bars are called O'Zorgnax's and the place to live is a mile above Manhattan. Welcome to *Futurama*

the world. According to Groening, after the Gulf War a Mid-Western town wanted to erect a statue of Bart stamping on Saddam Hussein. He is an icon, which is to say you can buy T-shirts with his face on them.

Groening is philosophical about the success of *The Simpsons*, and its side effects. (He is philosophical about most things. He is, as he is the first to admit, a rotten old hippy. "As much as I love *The*

Simpsons show, I love those *Simpsons* figures," he told *Wired* magazine. "To me the figurines are part of the creative product. OK, I'm not that proud of the *Simpsons* asthma inhalers, but that comes with the territory."

His vision for the new series draws once again a dystopian view of America, a twisted recycling of all the old clichés turned back upon themselves. The broken would

for *The Simpsons* was *The Flintstones*, the first ever prime-time cartoon, launched in 1960. Instead of the friendly boss at the rock-breaking plant, there was a homicidal maniac who ran the nuclear power plant. Homer's stubble is not, like Fred's, just enough to be manly; it is gross. Fred is cuddly and Homer is fat.

Just as *The Simpsons* draws on *The*

Flintstones, so *Futurama* draws on *Star*

Trek, *Star Wars* and (especially) *Lost in Space*. But whereas they have a reassuring faith in the ability of the future to deliver, *Futurama* does not. "Enough of these TV shows in which the problems of the universe are solved by militarism guided by New-Age spirituality," Groening told the *Boston Herald* recently. "I'm reacting in part to the liberal optimism of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, which seem to be the dominant

and repetitive. *Futurama* still looks different. It is not, by the common consent of critics, as good as *The Simpsons*. Yet, most would accept that it is only on its third programme, and that *The Simpsons* wasn't as good as *The Simpsons* for some time. There are some weaknesses - Groening has some sort of a problem with women, and his female characters are weaker than his males (or his robots). It will take time to populate the world of Fry with all the characters, side references and textures of a series that has taken 10 years to build. None the less, it has already embarrassed Fox with audience ratings that make it one of the network's strongest offerings. All of which, it would seem, just goes to prove Groening's favourite aphorism: "The authorities don't have your best interests at heart."

SYMPATHY FOR THE DYSFUNCTIONALS: THE AMERICAN CARTOONS THAT RULE THE WORLD

THE SIMPSONS	KING OF THE HILL	RUGRATS	SOUTH PARK
The original satire on the cosy suburban sitcom, the <i>Simpsons</i> family is dysfunctional but sympathetic. To begin with, the focus was on young Bart's problematic behaviour but, as the show developed, his dad Homer became the central figure. His stupid, selfish, profoundly passive response to the world makes him one of the most profoundly human characters on television.	Hank Hill may be a red-neck, but he has a heart of gold. He is struggling with traditional Southern values, modern masculinity and a son thicker than old molasses. His friends are paranoid survivalists and he is the world's most stubborn propane salesman. But like <i>The Simpsons</i> , this multicultural and confused vision of small-town America is more honest than anything you will ever see starring	Now they're major movie stars, claims that the Rugrats are subversives can be discounted. However, this low-angle, high-tone satire of adult hierarchy, venality, vanity, vulnerability and dinosaur-dependency is acutely observed, despite its mainly-for-kids feel-good vibe. The good guys are morally dependable, if shrill; the bad gal is incredibly shrill.	Only a cartoon as sick as this can do justice to the trash end of America's culture. It satirises all the fare of the supermarket tabloid, from alien abductions to diet plans, with crazy Vietnam
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EDUCATION

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Scottish options

Sir: The sentiments expressed in your leader ("The Scots should seek independence", 3 April) are realistic, but demonstrate the lost opportunity for fair and sensible government in Britain.

Of course Scotland, and any other country in the Union, must be allowed to go it alone if a majority of its citizens are unhappy with their lot. But we need never have come to this. The Union is mainly the product of opportunist English imposing a non-federal parliament on their neighbours in 1707.

If only things had been different. Had the Scots been allowed to keep their Parliament the possible dissolution of the United Kingdom would not now be threatened.

Why do our political masters lack the imagination to put things right, ignore the blatant self-interest of the SNP and offer a federal Britain, with assemblies for Scotland, Wales, England, Northern Ireland, and anyone else who wishes to be associated. The interests of all these islands could be represented, major issues such as defence and taxation being entrusted to a federal assembly, replacing the House of Lords.

Crucial and joint interests, such as agriculture and fishing, could be represented with a more powerful voice. This could be a valid alternative to the pound being coerced into shotgun marriage to the euro.

This time, let's get it right. Have self-government, but within a federal structure, allowing Scotland's citizens to continue to play a vital part in British, not just Scottish or English, history.

The total separation of Scotland and England would be a retrograde step, which both nations would soon regret.

JOHN CRAGG
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Choices facing Nato

Sir: The peace offer by President Milosevic (report, 7 April) confirms, if confirmation was ever needed, that he has already achieved his political objective, which was to create an ethnically pure state.

If the West does not like the new Serbian state, and wants all refugees to return home, it needs to take two actions: first liberate Kosovo, and then declare it either an independent state or partition it along ethnic lines.

But both of these options are likely to freeze, not resolve, the ethnic conflict - witness how, despite the partition of Bosnia into Croatian, Muslim and Serbian parts, and despite the presence of over 34,000 Nato-led troops, hardly any refugees are returning home.

Creating an independent or partitioned Kosovo may be necessary to salvage Nato's credibility, but it would be no incentive for the refugees to return home.

RANDHIR SINGH BAINS
Gants Hill, Essex

Sir: I am concerned by the amount of space taken up in your letters page by opponents of the Nato action to prevent and reverse the brutal ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Many of these letter writers seem to write from the perspective of the anti-American Left in Britain, who are still locked into Cold War attitudes to America/Nato. Though their views may be genuinely held, they really must realise that the world has moved on and that the Cold War is over.

Military action is never a palatable option, but what is happening in Kosovo cannot be accepted by the civilised nations of the world and is reminiscent of what the Nazis did in Europe in the 1940s. Negotiations were tried but failed and what is necessary now is military action to defeat the Serbs and return the Kosovar refugees to their homes under a UN/Nato protection force, of which Russia should form a part. At a later date the people of Kosovo should determine the future status of their country through a referendum. In the interim period Kosovo should remain a UN/Nato protectorate.

Public opinion polls seem to



Working Poland No 4: People sell odds and ends on the edge of a street market in the Jewish quarter of Krakow

Tom Pilston

indicate that the majority of people in Britain support the Nato intervention and are increasingly beginning to see the need for the use of ground troops. The weakness of the case against intervention made by the anti-American Left, as well as by the isolationist Right, is that they propose no effective alternative.

M OWEN
London E17

Sir: David Aarons, sick of the "stink of anti-interventionism", tells us that he is prepared to fight, as this point should strengthen his argument that British troops should be deployed in a land war in Kosovo ("My country needs me and the cause is worth fighting for", 6 April).

"What would I myself be prepared to sacrifice in order to stop the massacres and to strike an immense blow against the politics of racial and ethnic nationalism?" he asks.

There are countless painful questions which this present disaster poses but this is not one of them. The key issue is, is it right in the present circumstances to kill and destroy? Soldiers don't get a say, so we must have ours.

I'm sorry that Mr Aarons finds that anti-interventionism about war stinks. It is, after all, what he does.

DUNCAN BAIN
Oxford

Sir: Faced with a man-made disaster like Kosovo, I believe I am not alone in feeling angry and impotent. Apart from my lack of political, financial and military power, I am frustrated by a government whose opinion and action I do not necessarily agree with at the time even if I might have voted for it.

And yet, I pay taxes, I vote, I care. There must be something I can do, not just to give relief to misery, but to prevent sufferings.

We boycotted South African products for their apartheid policies, French products for their nuclear experiments in the Pacific. Perhaps this is the time for

consumers, with the help of the Internet, to exercise their power on a global scale for human rights.

Is it not possible for well-established, non-aligned international organisations such as Amnesty International to educate, enlighten and enable consumers who can use their collective power to do something about basic human rights? A register giving oppressive regimes and their commercial interests would allow individuals to boycott products or services and a system can be devised to document their targets and efforts.

JOE BLOGG
Alton, Hampshire

Sir: It is easy for *The Independent* and its readers to castigate Nato and the politicians for the tragedy in Kosovo. May I suggest the real blame lies nearer home?

Not until now has the public been sufficiently outraged to send in ground forces. Politicians are sensitive to the public mood. To send in the troops to "sort out" Milosevic means casualties. Did any of us care enough about the

Albanians, or indeed any of the other people mentioned in Robert Fisk's article ("We have lost this foolish war", 5 April), to risk the lives of "our boys"?

Dr W G LE-LAS
Canterbury, Kent

Sir: I cannot help but remember that among those who claim to be fighting for human rights and justice in Kosovo is Turkey, which apart from its record in Cyprus, has one of the worst human rights records of any country. Britain, which stood idly by while 37 per cent of Cyprus was ethnically cleansed, and the USA, which gave Turkey the green light to invade Cyprus in 1974.

PAVLOS ANDRONIKOS
Head, Department of Greek Studies, School of European Languages & Cultures, Monash University, Victoria, Australia

East Timor violence

Sir: While Europe watches events unfolding in the Balkans with increasing horror, half a world

away, East Timor's life-blood continues to ebb away as it faces up to a fresh wave of violence and killings unleashed by the covert arming and sponsorship of civilian militias by the Indonesian military.

This latest frenzy has been prompted by Indonesia's official indication that it might let East Timor go, whilst unofficially attempting to bludgeon the East Timorese population into voting for continuing integration with Indonesia under an "autonomy" package about to be unveiled.

Exasperated by the passivity of the international community in backing UN efforts to advance the peace process, Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao has called off a ceasefire in response to the massacre by the militias of 17 people in Liquica this week.

The international community must now intervene decisively, and send a peace-keeping force to East Timor.

The pro-integration militias currently intimidating the population must be disarmed immediately, so that meaningful and internationally valid

consultation of East Timorese citizens can take place.

When the genocidal horror of the Indonesian occupation was publicised in the wake of the 1991 Dili massacre, journalists pointed out that Cold War preoccupations had encouraged the West to turn a blind eye to the 1975 invasion of East Timor.

Preoccupation with events closer to home should not mean that we allow history to repeat itself.

P BARBER
P SCOTT
British Coalition for East Timor
London E1

Sir: Your report on the continuing tragedy of East Timor ("East Timor moves closer to civil war", 6 April) is a chilling case of *dej à vu*.

East Timor is being pushed by the Indonesians once again in the cynical games that they play.

Prior to the invasion of 1975 there had been a deliberate Indonesian policy of destabilisation and propaganda portraying the East Timorese as communists, having first ensured that the Indonesians alone controlled all news to the outside world by murdering five Australian-based *men on the border* at Balibo. Two were British citizens.

Once the Indonesians had a monopoly of news they were free to present their view that all who opposed them were communists, regardless of the truth.

A civil war was engineered by the Indonesians in much the same way as they are now, in an attempt to present their invasion as being the fireman putting out the fire. In fact they are the fireman throwing petrol on the flames.

Richard Lloyd Parry's article made reference to the 200,000 East Timorese who were murdered subsequent to the first Indonesian invasion.

I truly hope that history will not be repeating itself, but knowing the Indonesian government, I wonder what may be in store.

R L WILLOTT
Claines, Hereford & Worcester

Parents 'dismayed'

Sir: So teachers are "dismayed, discouraged and disgusted" (letter, 5 April)?

I have to tell teachers that we, the parents of children in state education, are not only fed up with their endless complaining but also dismayed, discouraged and disgusted by their resistance to change.

It is time that they recognised that parents, and their champion David Blunkett, are no longer prepared to accept opposition to the national curriculum, to testing, to literacy and numeracy excellence, and to pay results.

The job they do is extremely demanding if done well, the pay is not over-generous and their status is relatively low. But their determination to resist change is neither professional nor wise.

JANET JONES
London NW1

Sir: In Cherry Norton's piece on students ("Stay at home students do worse in life", 1 April) she seems to be implying that because of the imposition of fees, students are being "forced" to live at home and that this will deprive them of getting better-paid jobs.

I live in East Anglia where local students are more likely to leave home. This is not because they have more money but because they do not have as many options as those in the South-east, Scotland and Wales.

Wealthier kids always have had the best chances. That's why a university education was next to impossible. Universal access to higher education to anyone able to perform at the right level is a long road, but we are on the move as increasing numbers of graduates prove.

My son went to Cambridge. It was nothing to do with our income, which was in difficulty at the time. He was content to live within his grant and earn any extra he needed.

Because improvement in access to higher education is slow, that is no reason to plead that university education shouldn't be paid for by those who are going to benefit most.

It is quite acceptable to make some charge for an education which enables higher-income earning. The increasing numbers in higher education make this inevitable.

I believe that making some financial contribution to one's higher education will make students consider much more carefully what they want their future to be, before they go to university.

This will deter those who treat it as a pleasurable, no-cost way of filling time.

BETTY PERRY
Chelmsford, Essex

White socks kill

Sir: The basis of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions' Speed Kills campaign is nothing more than an artifact of its own statistics.

By "speeding", the DETR means speed that is merely higher than the posted limit. It claims that speed is a factor in about a third of all collisions. The way it has arrived at this figure is bizarre, however.

If any of the vehicles involved in a road accident was travelling in excess of the posted speed limit immediately prior to the crash, the DETR chalks it up as speed-related.

So if someone runs a red light and clobbers another vehicle which is doing 35mph in a 30mph area it is considered a speed-related accident.

This clearly has no meaning in reality. The DETR might as well observe the footwear of drivers involved in collisions, and declare that white socks are a factor in as yet indeterminate proportion of road accidents.

LANCE K GREEN
Newport, Gwent

Turn two weeks in Bournemouth into a six-figure advance

ALMOST EVERYONE dreams of writing a best-seller, and it must often seem that the easiest kind of best-seller to write is a travel book. So today, as the summer holidays loom, I am bringing you a master-class in the art of writing a travel book, to help you bring back a masterpiece from your holidays.

What is a travel book? A travel book is, in essence, a way of setting your holiday expenses against tax.

Should you fix up a contract with a publisher before you go on your travels? Should you maybe even write the book before you go?

Not necessarily. There are two main kinds of travel book. One is the kind which comes after you have had an interesting experience, which then prompts you to write a

book. The other kind happens when you promise a publisher to write a book before you go off and have the interesting experience.

Is it possible to write a travel book without leaving home?

Oh, yes. Marco Polo is now thought never to have gone to China, despite which his book on China is the most famous book about China ever written. Daniel Defoe never got wrecked on a desert island, despite which his book on Robinson Crusoe is one of the most famous of all time.

Is Robinson Crusoe a travel book? After all, he never moves from his island so he doesn't strictly speaking, travel at all.

Perhaps you're right. Perhaps it is, strictly speaking, a hostage book, a forerunner of all those Terry Waite books in which nobody

goes anywhere and nothing much happens. More like a Harold Pinter play.

What happens if you promise a publisher a book full of interesting experiences, take his advance and go abroad and spend it, then don't have interesting experiences?

You come back and make them all up.

Perhaps I shouldn't mention this, but in *Nicholas Shakespeare's new life of Bruce Chatwin* there seems to be more than a suggestion that Chatwin lived a life of fantasy.

Which is precisely what made him such a good travel-writer. Have you noticed, for instance, that all travel books are full of reported conversations? You don't honestly think do you, that the writer could remember all those conversations?

Isn't that a bit like improving on reality?

Yes, and a good thing too. One of the reasons that travel-writers are more interesting than TV travel-programmes is that a travel-writer can improve on poor old real life. You can't do that on TV any more, otherwise you will be accused of faking. Everyone in TV knows that the faked bits are always the best. That's why travel TV is so dull. People like Peter Ustinov can fake their chat in books or in anecdotes, but they don't fake their chat when travelling on TV, which is why it is so dreadful.

You're not suggesting that people like Michael Palin write better travel books than the TV programmes they make? Michael Palin doesn't write travel books. He writes "books that go

with the TV programme". That's something quite different.

All right - you're not suggesting that a writer like Bill Bryson makes things up, are you?

He is, different, too. Don't forget that there are two kinds of travel-writers: those who set out with a gimmick and those who don't. By gimmick writers I mean those who set out on motorbike, or llama, or bicycle, or carrying a fridge round Ireland, and then record the scrapes they have deliberately got into.

But Bill Bryson doesn't have a gimmick. Yes he does. He is an American. He is an American who bothered to write a book about England. We were so immensely flattered that any American should bother to do this that we fell in love with him. Wasn't it partly to do with the

fact that Bryson seemed to love us and have the same sort of humour?

Not really. Paul Theroux had the same sort of success, earlier, with a book called *The Kingdom By The Sea*. He went round Britain by train and hated it, and hated almost everyone he met, and said so, but that didn't deter people from buying the book and loving grumpy old Paul Theroux. They just loved to read about themselves.

Wait. This masterclass was going to teach me how to turn my summer holiday into a best-seller. How will all this help me?

It won't. You'll have to wait until tomorrow for the second half...

You mean, this is a cynical play for this newspaper?

Yes. Fair enough.



MILES KINGTON

Should you fix up a contract before you go? Should you even write the book before you go?

Travel-writers are like novelists - they create characters and dialogue out of sketchy notes.

We must care for Kosovo's poor and dispossessed

THE FATE of the Kosovar refugees has taken a new and sinister twist, as journalists and aid workers in Albania and Macedonia report that the Serbian army has forced fleeing people back into Kosovo. At the same time, the Macedonian government's decision to harry refugees out of the transit camp at Blace was brutal if, in some respects, understandable. The refugees have suddenly become not just the victims of war but a weapon in the propaganda battle – a weapon which Europe has still not learnt to protect itself from, as was made evident at the crisis meeting in Luxembourg yesterday.

The latest change of tactic by Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, may be an attempt to capitalise on the cease-fire he declared on Tuesday, using the pretext of Eastern Orthodox Holy Week. The Yugoslav President could have decided that, with the Russian media turning against him over the humanitarian crisis and Nato air attacks on Serbian ground troops intensifying, keeping ethnic Albanians in Kosovo made sense. He could use them as evidence of the sincerity of his peaceful intentions and also have human shields against Nato bombs.

Whatever Mr Milosevic's calculations, his actions should not fool anyone in the European Union into thinking that the Kosovars in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro are going to be able to go home any time soon.

It is extremely disappointing therefore that the European nations have not been able to come up with an agreed policy on sheltering refugees. The dithering over whether or not to take them in which has characterised the better part of the week has only continued. While the Germans, Dutch and Danes proposed that EU states welcome refugees in proportion to their population, Britain and Italy said no – and France is trying not to take any Kosovar refugees at all.

The removal of the Kosovar population from the area around their homeland makes it more likely that they will never go home. But taking some of the refugees out of the neighbouring states is necessary. The Macedonians have not been as sympathetic to the refugees as they could have been, but given their country's poverty and already sizeable ethnic-Albanian minority the Macedonians' action has some of the force of self-preservation. The Kosovar refugees are indeed a European problem; but first they are a problem to neighbouring Balkan states. Some refugees must be taken out of the border lands, as humanitarian concerns must come before political considerations.

There should be efforts to gather as much information as possible about the refugees so that families can be quickly reunited and the chance of people one day returning to their homes is increased. The Serbian attempt to strip the Kosovars of their identity must be countered with

all the resources of modern information technology.

The refugees are not being allowed to choose their destination. Who would not choose to be resettled in a rich welfare state like Sweden rather than rough it in Turkey? Nothing can be done to end this unfairness, other than to make sure the situation does not last long. Once the refugees have arrived in their host countries they should be housed like other asylum seekers. They should not be herded into camps where inadequate facilities will breed discontent and violence.

The best and quickest way for the EU to get the Kosovars home is for Nato to establish a protectorate over Kosovo. This will take a large commitment of infantry and tanks to establish and defend its borders. Soldiers will die. The EU governments have a stark choice. Either they can have a long war with no Nato ground troops involved and the prospect of the refugees becoming permanently settled in their countries, or they can fight to create a protectorate which will secure future peace.

Time to admit defeat in the banana war

IT IS time to end the monkey business over the banana war. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruled on Tuesday that the United States may impose \$191m (£120m) worth of duties on goods from the European Union (EU). This is in response to special subsidies that the EU has given to bananas grown in the former colonies of its member states. The EU has argued that the 14,000 or so banana farmers in the Caribbean need this help while they develop new ways to earn a living. Sir Leon Brittan, the Vice President of the European Commission, has already said that the EU will appeal against this decision. But the US has the letter of the law on its side and the European Union should learn to live with the decision.

The behaviour of the United States has certainly been

bullying. Its imposition of tariffs on Terry's Chocolate Oranges and Scottish cashmere sweaters, among other EU goods, has been illegal and unnecessarily aggressive. There is reason to think that the whole trade war has been bought off the shelf by the US banana lobby through donations to the Democrats. But the US is right on this occasion. The Europeans now need to negotiate, not appeal. It would be to no one's benefit if the US decided to impose the tariffs up to the WTO limit.

There is no reason why the WTO's decision should prevent the EU helping the Caribbean islanders. It could increase the amount of economic development aid it gives to the islands.

Furthermore, with the future of the European Commission under debate, it would be best if this matter could be sorted out before Romano Prodi becomes its president. And with more people fleeing from Kosovo and the number of deaths increasing daily, the Western allies do not need to be wrangling over who is top banana.

What Milosevic needs is a Serbian version of John Humphrys

ONE of the great myths of the Kosovo war so far has been the legend of Super-Sloboda, the Belgrade Machiavelli. According to this story – passed on by grand-standing reporters, hoary commentators and hoary politicians – Mr Milosevic is a master strategist who has anticipated Nato at every turn, and is now well placed to earn the dishonourable peace he seeks.

First he invites Nato to attack him, knowing that such an assault will forfeit the good will of Russia, China and the United Nations itself. He calculates rightly that Western public opinion will not long stand for the sight of civilians being maimed in their half. Furthermore, the bombing releases him to clear Kosovo of its majority Albanian population, while the Allies face popular recrimination for allowing it to happen.

Gradually the clamour will force a hovine Nato, caught between its desire to act and its fear of human loss, to the table, where – effectively – it will capitulate, leaving Kosovo (or most of it) to Serbia, and Serbia (all of it) to Milosevic. And we – fools that we are – fell into his cunning trap! Don't it only go to show how dictators can usually outwit democratic politicians – or at least start with a clear advantage?

An advantage illustrated, you might have thought, by two incidents from yesterday. In Britain we woke up to discover, amongst other things, that Nato planes had bombed a place called Aleksinac in Serbia. We could read in our newspapers about a 67-year-old man, Dragan Miladinovic, turned to bloody mincemeat by our

bombs. Meanwhile, almost no one in Serbia either knew or – it seems – wanted to know about the 13-year-old boy with the bullet-wound who escaped to Macedonia to tell the tale of a father and mother gunned down in Kosovo by Serb paramilitaries.

This, then, is Milosevic's chief advantage. He is unconstrained; there is no internal debate in Serbia. No one questions whether the world really is as he says it is; no one points out the gap between the lies he tells and the reality he describes.

It is a hell of an advantage. The same kind of advantage, in fact, that the planned economy of North Korea will not long stand for the sight of civilians being maimed in their half. Furthermore, the bombing releases him to clear Kosovo of its majority Albanian population, while the Allies face popular recrimination for allowing it to happen.

BUT, increasingly since the exodus began, it has become evident that Milosevic's strategy, far from working, has been a catastrophe for him and for his country. He is probably the least successful national leader since Baby Doc Duvalier led Haiti. He has accomplished only one thing in a decade: to remain head of a shrinking, beleaguered, increasingly impoverished nation. A nation, furthermore, to be forever tainted with the charge of genocide.

Consider: A week ago, the big question over here was whether we should continue to take action against Serbia. Today it has become "how can we intensify that action?". In one day Nato's quid has been raised for the refugees, and it'll be much more by the time you read this. So much for compassion fatigue!

Last week the UN was making angry noises about Nato. Yesterday



DAVID AARONOVITCH

There is no internal debate, no one points out the gap between the lies he tells and the reality he describes

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan condemned Serbia's genocide against the Kosovar Albanians. And I wonder, for God's sake, if this is now good enough for the quibblers? In Russia, where we thought all the talk had been of "Nato barbarity", the TV stations have for the first time been showing pictures of the refugees and listening to their account of exactly who it was that burned their homes, murdered their husbands and raped their sisters. This is not, presumably, what Mr Milosevic, master tactician, had in mind. The outcry from the rest of the world against Nato's actions has not materialised, though it has been sought assiduously enough.

The Nato allies too have held firm, with only an occasional, teeny wobble on the part of a Portuguese here or an Italian there. Greece, given its geo-

raphy and history, has behaved admirably and courageously. So when Mr Milosevic, now a born-again son of the Orthodox Church (why not? it worked for Stalin) launched his Easter cease-fire plan, looking for chinks and divisions, there were none.

He had forgotten that, in the information age, the world would hear of the refugees' stories, see videos of the corpses and compare all that with the Sloboda version. Then they would brand him a murderer and a liar, and put pressure on their governments not to settle with the Butcher.

Had Milosevic presided over a democracy with a free press, he could never have made this incredible error. He would have been used to his arguments being picked apart in parliament and on television. Alasic Campbellovic would have advised him just how dreadful it would all look on the evening news: John Prezzic about how his own party wouldn't wear it. But poor old Milosevic doesn't have our disadvantages.

True, the first reactions in the West to the sight of those who were to be protected fleeing in great numbers were indeed negative. But since then the realisation of what Milosevic really is has been dawning on ordinary people across Europe and America. As a consequence, the democratic governments of Nato have been cut some slack by their anxious voters.

But there is a lesson in all this for our leaders too. Because the last thing we need right now is a strong dose of counter-propaganda. I do

not want to hear George Robertson claiming that the Milosevic truce offer was a "sign of weakness". It was not. It was a ploy to divide the alliance, and it has failed, but it signifies no loss of resolve by the Serbs. I need to be able to trust Mr Robertson's statements, not suspect them.

Nor does Robin Cook need to tell us that, actually, Nato foresaw what has happened – that we knew there would be a spring offensive and a likely exodus. The truth is that we didn't expect Milosevic to do what he has done, for precisely the reasons that now make him the most hated man in this hemisphere. We simply did not believe that he would be so murderously stupid. So say it, Robin.

And Alex Salmond's wrong-headed opposition to Nato action may well be quoted approvingly in Belgrade. But if so, that's not his fault; the only real question is whether or not he's in error. I believe he is, but I don't need to insult the man to argue with him.

So far we have been able to proceed without much jingoism, partly because those who usually go around shouting "traitor", the Tory right, don't much like this war. Well and good: we're better off without them.

In this world only Popes and Today presenters are infallible. People know this. They need to be told the truth about the options, the truth about the failures, the truth about the difficulties.

We don't require any gingering up, oh leaders, just the sense that you believe in what you're doing and that you're doing your best. That'll do.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We are up against a dictator who has shown he would rather rule over rubble than not rule at all."
President Bill Clinton

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Older men declare war; but it is youth that must fight and die."
Herbert Hoover,
former US president

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
International comment on the situation of the ethnic Albanian refugees

THOUSANDS OF ethnic Albanians and quite a few Turks are being pushed out of their homes by Serbian hordes, and those who survive atrocities find their way to the borders and save their skin by crossing into neighboring countries. Macedonia has already announced that it is overwhelmed by the refugee exodus and is unable to cope with more refugees. Germany and Greece have announced that they will accept Kosovar refugees. We

feel Turkey too has to make a similar announcement. And we feel the Western countries who tried to bury their heads in the sand for so long and hoped the Kosovo issue would simply disappear now have an obligation to help out the refugees.

TDN Turkey

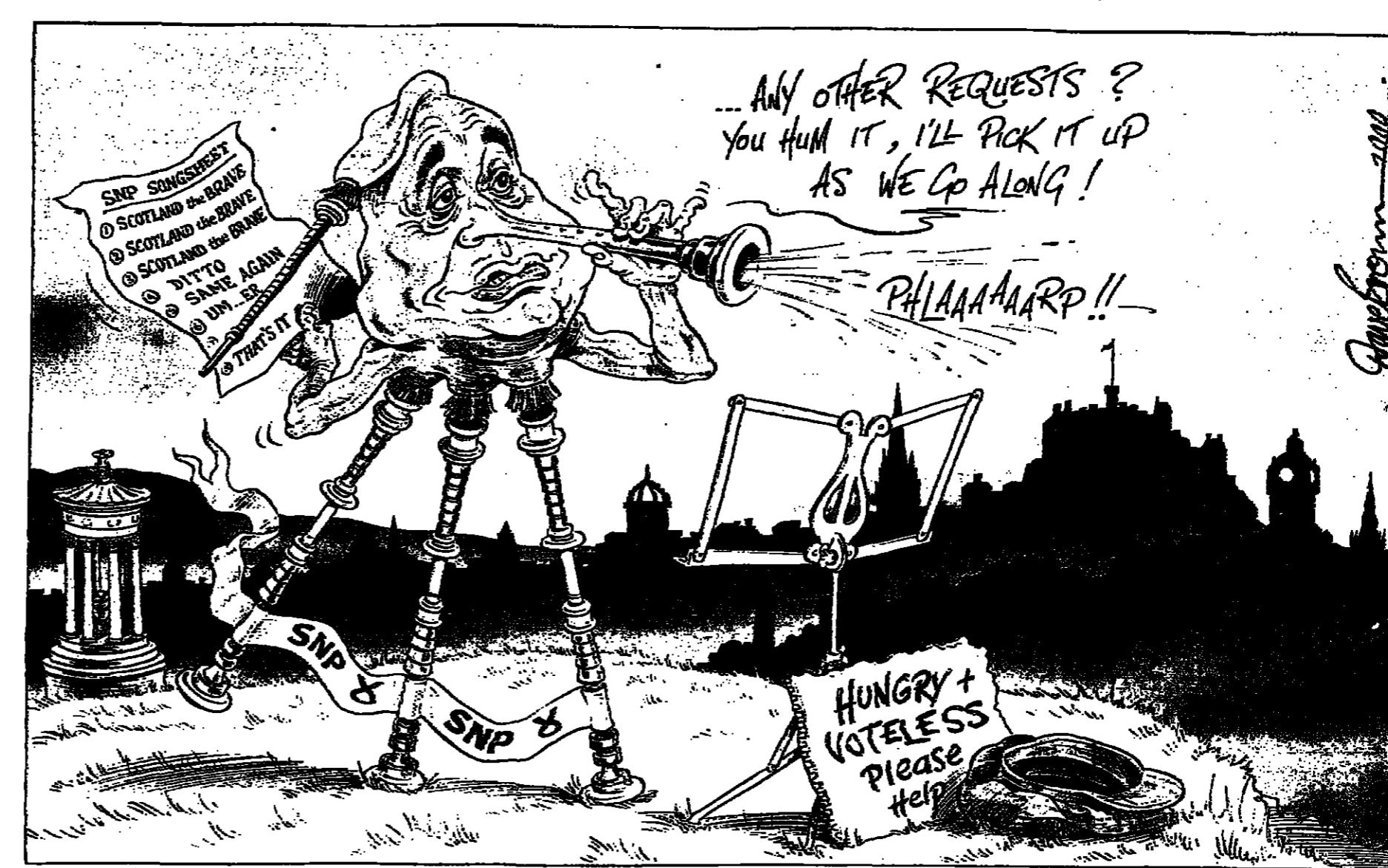
HUNGER AND disease are costing lives each day and there is a potential for the deaths to soar exponentially.

Another fear is that this huge movement of refugees across the border of Kosovo into Albania and Macedonia will have a destabilising effect throughout the region. The world may be witnessing only the beginning of this crisis. Kosovo is on the other side of the world, but distance does not diminish our responsibilities towards them.

Sydney Morning Herald
Goshen News, US
Le Monde, France

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PANDORA

TWITCHERS BEWARE: It's time to tag your feathered friend with a microchip, according to the new issue of *Pet Product Marketing*. It reports that a gang of villains has been hitting pet shops in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Norfolk - the crew specialises in stealing exotic birds. During the past year, it has bagged a haul of 70, valued at around £10,000. A £700 African Grey (pictured) is the latest to be forcibly migrated. According to ornithological security expert John Hayward, the bird-bandits swoop on top-priced specimens, leaving lesser breeds in their cages. It sounds like an inside job by some guys.

OH NO, say it ain't so: Monica Lewinsky is now threatening to move to London because here she "gets respect and privacy". What have we done to deserve this?

FLESH-EATING virtuous, explosions, lesbian tongue hockey, rape, incest, smack murders, bodies under patos ... *Brookside* supreme Phil Redmond and his writers have vivid imaginations. But when it comes to troubled teen-soap *Hollyoaks* (a bit of a problem child for Redmond's Mersey launch four years ago), there only seems one plot-twist: road-kill. There have been three disastrous vehicle accidents in as many years; in *Brookside* characters are always crashing in the same bar - in *Hollyoaks* they're always just crashing. Redmond is supposedly keen to ease his foot off the gas at *Brookie* and get in the driving seat at *Hollyoaks*. C4 suits are banking on the attitudinal scouser not falling asleep at the wheel.

PANDORA's Life of Don Johnson. The former Mr Melanie Griffiths recently invited a West Coast showbiz reporter into his lovely psyche. In the *LA Times*.

Paul Brownfield describes their time together as "mostly a

BT HAS signed up Stephen Spielberg's ET to persuade us to "stay in touch" by phone. The ugly alien will be coming to a commercial break near you in a series of teasers from 11 April, culminating in a "movie-style" 60-second commercial next month. Perhaps BT should stay in closer touch with AT&T, its putative bedmate in the lucrative US market - the telecom giant hasn't been paying its phone bills. Apparently, AT&T and former BT partner MCI both owe the Cuban national phone company a substantial sum, so substantial that the Cubans are threatening to cut all American phone lines to the Island.

Contact *Pandora* by e-mail: *pandora@independent.co.uk*

misguided tour of machismo and implied debauchery. He picks up a blonde at a bar; he peels off two \$100 bills for a homeless man... "Although Johnson's battle with the bottle is well documented, Brownfield says "in the past three hours he's gone through several bottles of wine, but not much in the way of solid food". Pausing only to urinate into San Francisco Bay, the volatile star of *Nash Bridges* and *Miami Vice* describes how he bedded *Nash Bridges'* female guest stars in his "bus-like trailer" on the set - crew members called it "riding the bus". It's been 10 years since Johnson gave an interview, enquiring minds wonder why.

OH, AND did you notice the less than felicitous juxtaposition of the initials of Victoria (Adams) and David (Beckham) on the bogus crest heading up the couple's wedding invitation?

ONE MONTH to go until the Scottish and Welsh elections, and the pressure is starting to tell. The Scottish Conservative Party sent out a special pack to schools, in which it tries to reconcile its previous opposition to devolution with its current campaign for electoral success in the assembly. "To the uninformed observer, these standpoints may seem incompatible," says Scottish Tory leader David McLeitchie. "That's an entirely understandable reaction." In the spirit of listening to the electorate's kitchen table (or whatever this week's draft initiative is supposed to be), will the Tories be similarly sympathetic when no one votes for them?

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I urge you all to shop randomly



DAVID
LISTER

Can the day be far away when every supermarket has its own loyalty-card therapist?

candy-floss in Southend. I will have nothing to do with loyalty cards. This is not because I am capricious in my shopping habits, but because I am a democrat. Loyalty cards look like a good deal and certainly tell us a good deal about the philosophies of the supermarket chains. Tesco, for example, is an unsentimental, un-reconstructed monetarist. The

Tesco loyalist receives money-off vouchers. Safeway is the "new man" among supermarket giants: its benefits in kind include an annual creche pass. Sainsbury's Air Miles offer encourages you to go away and make babies, rather than put them in a creche.

At least that was a system free of political and psychological overtones. The new customer "class" system being considered by Tesco could end up with supermarkets resembling opera houses. There might be a plush checkout where the designer-label, high-spending shoppers could chat with their own kind, while the one-basket, basic-toiletries-and-marked-down-poultry baskets could enter and leave via a separate entrance.

The psychological implications are equally disturbing. Safeway is now testing palm-top computers designed to check the cardholder's shopping history before making "tailored" special offers available to the shopper.

Until this moment, I was not aware that I had a "shopping history". I thought I just bought

the defeat of an environmental campaigner. Safeway's palm-top computer will surely bleep when it notices a shopper who is losing their political consciousness.

And Big Brother in the supermarket will programme the poor lost soul's name into a database to send to dubious political and commercial organisations. The new computerised, class-graded loyalty cards are a subtle totalitarian tool. But there is one way to defeat them.

Shop with no consistency, no game plan, no consumerist ideology. Flit from supermarket to supermarket. One week, put as many E-numbers into your trolley as it can hold. Then the next week, only go to the organic shelves. Never spend the same amount two weeks running. Intersperse strict vegetarianism with carnivorous binges and out the Chablis with the Liebfraumilch.

Then watch the steam come out of the palm-top computer and see the store manager - in the manner of a failed Ian Fleming Smersh operative - click his heels and bury his head in the frozen turkeys.

Its first 100 days were rocky, but the euro's in rude health



DIANE
COYLE

The pro-pounders are in the main elderly men with more stake in their past than in our future

COULD THERE have been a more turbulent first 100 days for the euro? The period since its euphoric launch amid Beethoven and balloons on New Year's Day started with a damaging public row over interest rates between the brash German finance minister and the dull Dutch banker running the new European Central Bank. It moved on to the resignation first of said finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, then the entire European Commission, washed out of office on a tide of sleaze. And just three months after the single currency's birth, war started on the eastern border of Euroland.

No wonder Britain's save-the-pounders are feeling so chipper. The new currency has been declining pretty steadily on the foreign exchanges, and has lost 5 per cent of its value against the pound. But the motley collection of assorted Lords and Rupert Murdoch-employees gleeful at all this extra ammunition for their campaign against Britain joining the euro, turned out to have adjusted the replies in a way which - surprise, surprise - turned a raw pro-euro majority into a "weighted" majority for the anti.

Start with that decline in the value of the euro on the foreign exchanges. It is tiny, as currency movements go. In just eight weeks last summer the pound fell more than 7 per cent against other currencies, and is still 4 per cent below the level it reached in August. During that entire period of decline British industrialists - the anti-euro camp more vociferously than most - continued to complain about the strength of the pound.

And they are still complaining. They acclaim the euro's weakness as a sign of the innate weaknesses of the Continental economy. At the same time they grumble that its fall is undermining the ability of British business to sell profitably into European markets. These people want to have their brioche and eat it too.

Nor do they speak for the full breadth of British business. A poll conducted by ICM for Business for Sterling, which supposedly showed a 59 per cent majority against UK membership of the euro, turned out to have adjusted the replies in a way which - surprise, surprise - turned a raw pro-euro majority into a "weighted" majority for the anti.

This is an odd approach to campaigning - rigging the result to show that you have already achieved the victory over public opinion you are supposed to be aiming for. The truth is that British business, like the British people, is split on the subject, probably mildly sceptical on balance but open to discussion. What a pity they have been so ill-served by politicians and commentators.

It has not helped elevate the level of debate that all the running has been made by the anti-euro groups like Business for Sterling and Lord Owen's New Europe. These outfits, funded by privately wealthy men and, in the case of New Europe, Mr Murdoch, have more money than the Britain in Eu-

rope coalition on the opposite side. The pro-euro campaign has also remained too low-key, postponing its formal launch until Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine can swing their weight behind it after the European elections.

The delay will turn out to have been a mistake, and not just because it will allow the anti-euro groups to set the terms of the debate. For the main distinction between the two camps is the narrowness of interests represented by the anti's compared to the diversity of those who remain open to the idea of Britain playing a central role in Europe.

The defenders of sterling are, in the main, a group of elderly men with more stake in their past than in our future. They clothe their gut anti-Europeanism and Little Englandism in the language of rational economic argument. Many actually believe Britain ought to withdraw from the EU altogether, but have just enough nous to realise this is not a referendum winner.

Among younger people who are not part of the Establishment, there is a good deal of pro-European sentiment. Few people born in the baby-boom generation or later are purely nationalistic. We have travelled abroad for holidays and business, not just to fight other Europeans. In our millions we have enjoyed the beaches of the Costa Brava and the hills of Tuscany, watched football in France, been skiing in the Alps, held meetings with colleagues in Frankfurt, and danced in Dublin's nightclubs. While we still laugh at jokes about German holidaymakers and Italian drivers, it is no longer a bitter humour.

For all those whose instincts are to be part of Europe, not separate from it, there are many clear signals that staying out of the single currency has already undermined Britain's influence. To take just the latest, in his interview with the



A protester outside the Bank of England Louisa Buller/AP

Financial Times this week, Romano Prodi, the President-designate of the European Commission was describing how he came to be appointed. Jacques Chirac, the French President, rang him up to tell him what Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, wanted. The British Prime Minister didn't merit a passing mention.

There is a serious economic argument to be held about the pros and cons of Britain joining the euro. The arguments in favour concern the creation of a genuine, competitive single market, and whether British companies can afford to be on the outside, victims of a volatile exchange rate.

The arguments against concern the limits membership would set to macroeconomic management, and how damaging it might be to lose the ability to set interest rates for the UK alone. Although European interest rates are already well below UK rates, the pro-euro case is not helped by the tardiness of the European Central Bank in taking

more action to help boost growth at a time of global crisis. It might still do so after its meeting today, which would make the cost of borrowing on the Continent half that in the UK.

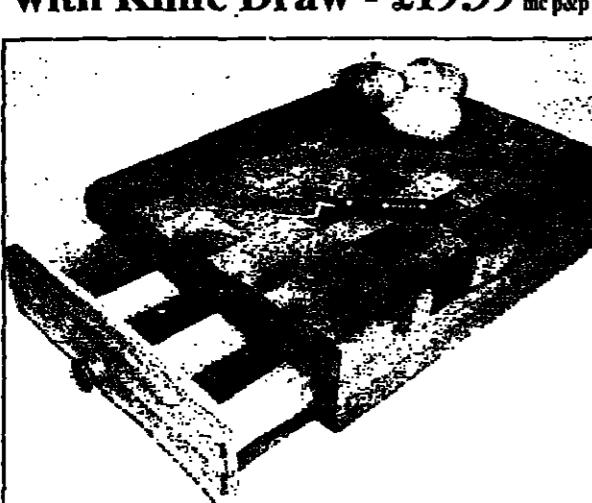
Nor is the case for joining helped by the reluctance of most Continental politicians to introduce fundamental reforms that would help their economies work better. But British politicians are not going to persuade them to do so by lecturing in a superior way from the outside.

- Tony Blair's recent speech to European socialists on his Anglo-Saxon vision of a modern and competitive economy won no converts. He simply is not seriously engaged in their overwhelming political project, unless and until he takes the UK into the single currency.

A rocky first 100 days have not sown a single seed of doubt about the euro in Euroland. It should not mislead anybody in Britain either. The euro is here, and the longer the UK stays out the further away from us the Continent will drift.

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An exciting time to do business in



PODIUM

BILL GATES
From the inaugural lecture of the London Business School given by the CEO of Microsoft Corporation

subject to constant feedback. Everything we have, you can send us comments on and tell us how it could be improved for you personally or how it needs to adjust to new business conditions. There is a lot of velocity here, a need to respond to dynamic markets in a better way, a need to have what I call 'better business reflexes'.

In fact, the systems that we have replaced the paper with are a lot better; in fact, they are

have grown up in an age in which there were personal computers, it was not the CEO who was supposed to learn how to type. But CEOs have got to show that they are willing to do in.

If we think about it, at a meeting like this one in three or four years from now, everyone will have a tablet PC and will be taking notes on it so that you do not have a mismatch between what you do on paper and on the computer.

The term 'PC' will probably be reserved for the full screen device where you create documents and edit them, whether at home or in the workplace. You will certainly have a device that has phone-like functionality that is smaller, that fits into the pocket, and not only connects up for voice but also digital wireless.

You will have something in your car that you can just talk to and ask for a radio station or for directions. It will be up-to-date in terms of what the traffic conditions are and connected with all your other devices. You will not have to be involved with moving information between them. If you get somebody's phone number and put

that on your small device, it will show up automatically on your PC and your auto PC without any overhead at all. It will also have the TV connected up to a high speed, two-way network using the cable or phone infrastructure so that getting e-mail or playing multi-player games will all be very natural.

If you are watching a sports show, you will be able to look at your buddy list and see if any of your friends are watching the same thing; if so, you will be able to open up a voice conversation and talk with them as simply as if you were watching together. There will be a lot of variety but we will all be connected up to the same network, all sharing the same information.

This is a pretty exciting time to be in business. It will not necessarily be the leaders of the past who are the leaders in the future. The jobs will not be the same as they have been. There is no doubt in my mind that the successful companies will be the ones that really grab these tools. I think that is an exciting opportunity and certainly something

I think we will have fun making a reality.

The

THE

THE

mly

Why marvel at Asian wealth?

SUKHDEV SANDHU

Do these 'success stories' carry out business differently from white people? One suspects not

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive. But to be young (and Asian) was very heaven." That's the euphoric cry, only partially a lie, that future cultural historians will be tempted to let out when they look back on the late 1990s.

Poring over the style mags and listings guides in archival research centres, fast-forwarding and freeze-framing through acres of video footage, they'll assemble myriad examples of how, after decades of being treated with indifference or contempt - by black and white people alike - Asian culture was suddenly viewed as cool and cuspy.

They'll seize upon a documentary about occasional *Big Breakfast* presenter and lad mag toto Melanie Sykes - she of the Indian mother - wandering around Southall saree shops and thinking thoughtfully about identity and stuff. They'll enthuse about the poly-chromatically-coiffured Asian DJs who grafted Bollywood samples onto generic drum 'n' bass tracks for a well-heeled and monochromatic crowd of Barnes and Belinda Trustafarians to shudder to at Notting Hill Arts Club. They'll note how well-educated Asians were rarely off news and current affairs programmes, interviewing princesses and such like. A handful of them - usually men, none of them born in England - produced bestselling fiction. They ran hugely profitable independent television companies and were invited to enter the House of Lords where they could represent the swinging, swishing Britanica envisioned by modish left-of-centre think-tanks.

Elsewhere, Asians scored pain-staking half centuries and threw regular tantrums while playing cricket for England. They stormed to the top of the pop charts and soundtracked ads for Levi's and Guinness. They helped spearhead the campaigns for racial justice that followed the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Young Asian women, many of them reading cultural studies in east London universities, bared their breasts for glossy fashion magazines.

Oh, and one or two friends of Noel Gallagher's wife sported bindis for at least a fortnight.

It's easy to forget just how novel this blizzard of hype and hipness is. Asians ranked low in the pecking order of post-Second World War ethnic subcultural cool. Second generation kids born in this country, or who were brought over at an early age, were assailed in



The brothers Srichand, left, and Gopi Hinduja, who top the latest list of the wealthiest Asians in Britain

Trevor Humphries

playgrounds with taunts about how they stunk of curry, about their shoddy grasp of English, and, crucially, about the squalid and risible jobs their parents occupied.

Beturbanned bus conductors were a constant source of hilarious jokes - "Bust bust ding ding, tickets please!" they'd sneer at us. "Why do Asian people never play football?"

Because every time they get a corner they build a shop on it," they'd laugh. Desperate to ingratiate ourselves, we'd laugh at these jokes too, sometimes trumping them - simultaneously exposing our mastery of English modes of self-deprecation by piping up: "What's the difference between a Paki and a bucket of shit? The bucket." They'd laugh - not with us, but at us. Deep down we knew this.

How we hated our parents! How we were embarrassed by them! They ordered us to wear manly blue parker coats come rain, shine or Indian monsoon. They forced us to fritter away whole evenings reading holy verses and practising Pun-

jabi and Hindi orthography. They never let us go out without dousing our hair in coconut oil that ponged alarmingly. They repeatedly administered savage shoe-beatings for the tiniest social infraction.

Work was our parents' real religion. They looked askance at play or pleasure. Asians in this country almost never went on holiday. While they might occasionally return to their ancestral villages in India and Pakistan to pay court to their families and relatives, to whose values they pledged unflagging adherence, they never thought to fritter their sweatened savings on trips to holiday camps or Judith Chalmers-endorsed Algarve packages. Every penny counted, every grocery receipt repeatedly scrutinised in case the cashier had accidentally charged an extra tuppence for a kilo of aubergines.

This obsessive penny-pinching was understandable. Our parents had been doing crappy jobs for crappy wages for as long as they - or we - could remember. Many of

our fathers had come to England in the mid-1960s from rural areas. With only basic schooling and speaking little English, they were forced to head for cities such as Bradford, Leicester and Birmingham whose foundries, steel mills and textile factories offered them ready - if menial - employment and where rents and travelling expenses were enticingly low.

Their main goal was to save enough money to bring over the wives and children that they'd left behind. They worked all the shifts and overtime slots they could. They bunkered up with colleagues in grotty terraced housing to save on renting costs. There's a hoary but accurate joke that runs: "How do you get six Asian families into a tyre? Tell them it's a flat."

Our dads laboured and they were lonely. They knew they were being exploited but they didn't really have a bundle of remunerative alternatives they could turn to. Their lack of fluency in English discouraged them from mingling with white

people. Rarely did they have the energy to go out to pubs or cinemas after work. Or the inclination - did they want to be stared and laughed at all evening? Entertainment cost money that they could ill afford.

Nor did their work ethic lapse after their families arrived in England. They prized money, not culture. This led to the accurate perception that most Asian parents would never be happy unless their children became doctors, lawyers or accountants.

I find it hard to care about the latest rollcall of Asian millionaires. Stories about Asian wealth are a boom industry in themselves. Do they really tell us much we didn't already know? That there are few Pakistani or Bangladeshi faces just proves the limitations of using "Asian" as a catch-all social category. Flicking through *Eastern Eye's* encomium to rapacious capitalism, it's striking that many of those featured come from wealthy backgrounds, from families noted for their retailing and entrepre-

neurial nous. As they pose - tidy, arse-clenched, corporate-smiled - at their gleaming desks, I'm struck at how familiar they seem. We're meant to marvel at their Asian-ness; all I see is the universal gait of the finance mogul, the conglom king.

Do these "success stories" - some younger than others, a handful of them women - carry out business differently to white people? One suspects not. Many of them have made it rich in textiles, an industry notorious for paying women, often middle-aged Asian women, less than £20 for 100-hour weeks.

It's these women - our mothers, our aunts - who should be highlighted today. Under-educated and over-exploited, they sacrificed their health and happiness so that their children could get an education, would not want. It was their dogmatic will-to-succeed - so hateful to us as we grew up in the 1960s and 1970s - that permits us now to galvanise and skitter around the circuits of metro-bohemianism. It's their uncoolness that enabled us to be cool.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PATRICIA HEWITT



The Economic Secretary to the Treasury replies to a leader on the introduction of ISAs

YOUR LEADING article "Confusion is always the enemy of thrift" suggests that the Government made a mistake in abolishing a workable savings system in PEPs and TESSAs, and should have been swifter in advertising the benefits of the ISA.

Neither suggestion is correct. ISAs will be a better way for more savers to save than existing schemes, and we have worked closely with the Inland Revenue to ensure clear information is easily available.

A quarter of the population have no savings at all, another quarter have less than £200 saved. Many are aware of the need to save, but are worried about hidden charges or not having access to their money.

ISAs were developed to provide flexible, tax-free ways to save to meet a range of needs: easy access cash ISAs for those needing to get at savings quickly.

To help savers, particularly new savers looking at new products, we have introduced new minimum CAT standards on reasonable charges, easy access and fair terms.

We know that ISAs will offer a wide choice to both new and existing savers. We have made sure that all savers can find out more about ISAs and make informed choices about which are for them.

In January this year, the Inland Revenue published a widely available booklet explaining in simple terms what ISAs are all about and what the benefits are.

Savers will quickly become aware of these benefits and wish to take them. As they do, providers will respond to their needs.

We believe ISAs will become as popular among new savers as PEPs and TESSAs became among existing savers, but that their benefits will - rightly - be more widely available.

The genocide we could ignore

THURSDAY BOOK

WE WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT TOMORROW WE WILL BE KILLED WITH OUR FAMILIES
BY PHILIP GOUREVITCH, PICADOR, £16.99

portage and wise humanity which made me curl with shame. Not a day goes by without some reminder of the Holocaust - all, we comfort ourselves, in the noble cause of "Never Again". Yet, less than a year after President Clinton inaugurated the Holocaust Museum in Washington as an investment in a secure future against whatever insanity lurks ahead, insanity was unfolding in central Africa under the eyes of the world.

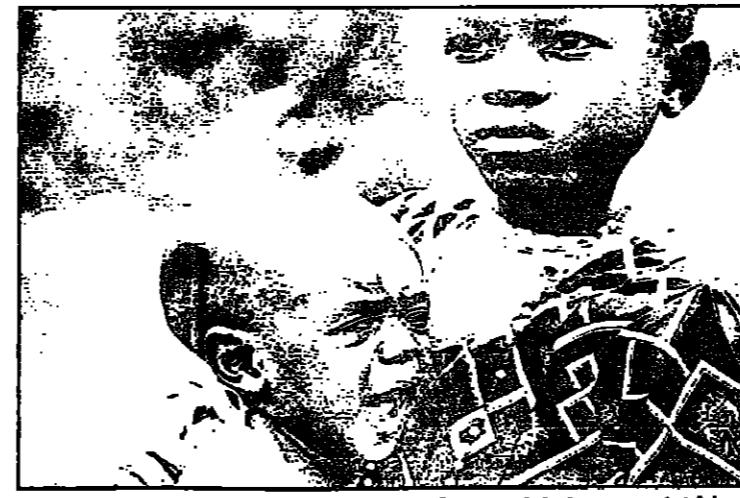
This story of the massacres of Tutsis by Hutus in April, May and June of 1994 is an astonishing feat of re-

portage and wise humanity which made me curl with shame. Not a day goes by without some reminder of the Holocaust - all, we comfort ourselves, in the noble cause of "Never Again". Yet, less than a year after President Clinton inaugurated the Holocaust Museum in Washington as an investment in a secure future against whatever insanity lurks ahead, insanity was unfolding in central Africa under the eyes of the world.

As the slaughter unfolded, desperate messages reached the State Department and the UN. Every day Hutu radio, which must have been monitored, urged listeners to go and kill the "cockroaches", and leave no empty spaces in graves already dug. The "cockroaches" were under no illusions. Gourevitch takes his title from a letter written by seven Adventist pastors, all Tutsis, to their church's president, a Hutu: "We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families." They were.

But pleas from Rwanda went unheeded even though outside intervention, as laid down by the Convention, would have stopped the genocide then and there. Most scandalous was the French role, in providing succour for the *génocidaires*. France chose sides because it opposed the Tutsi-dominated Rwandese Patriotic Front, which had been fighting a long civil war against the Hutu government. Had the RPF prevailed (as in the end it did) Paris feared Rwanda, a former Belgian colony, would have been lost to Francophone Africa.

But that does not solve the central mystery: how can people who have lived together and intermarried for



The Rwandan genocide led to a vast refugee crisis in central Africa

centuries, sharing the same language and religion, do such terrible things to one another?

There are some heroes, like the Kigali hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, a Hutu who protected the hunted of whatever race, or Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Vice-President, a Tutsi who has embraced reconciliation rather than vengeance. "People are not inherently bad," he tells Gourevitch. "But they can be made bad. And they can be taught to be good."

Perhaps that is the only way. How do you punish hundreds of thousands of people for murder? When everyone is guilty, nobody is. And faced with the sheer volume of killing, the mind short-circuits. One murder is a tragedy but, as Dylan Thomas wrote, "after the first death there is no other". Rwanda's low-tech Holocaust was the banalisation of evil, down to the Hutu councilwoman who offered 50 Rwandan francs (20p) for severed Tutsi heads. The practice was known as "selling cabbages".

For us, it was all too complicated, too far away. Had the present civil war

in ex-Zaire (directly caused by the Rwandan genocide) happened in Europe, dragging in half a dozen countries, we would speak of a world war.

Instead we mostly ignore it: another primitive, incomprehensible struggle in a continent we have written off as long since. "In such countries, genocide is not too important," President Mitterrand remarked of Rwanda - oblivious of the blow that France's huge misjudgement would deal to its prestige and influence throughout Africa.

But his views were widely shared, among others by an American intelligence officer who held forth to Gourevitch in Kigali bar. "Do you know what genocide is? A cheese sandwich. Write it down: Genocide is a cheese sandwich. Genocide, genocide, genocide. Cheese sandwich, cheese sandwich, cheese sandwich. Who gives a shit? Crimes against humanity? Who's humanity? You? Me? Did you see a crime committed against you? Hey, just a million Rwandans."

In the cynicism of the spook lies the precise and shaming truth.

RUPERT CORNWELL

THURSDAY POEM

RETREAT
BY EDWIN BROCK

We tried to sit beside this pool
inside the sound of water
and see forever nothing but green

as though some kind of coverlet
of meadow sweet and willow herb
birdsong and blossom were sewn

into forgetfulness. But had forgotten
the mouse in an owl's claw
night in a child's eyes

and the way a pheasant cries as though
its throat is torn and its wings
are driving its ghost away.

This poem comes from Edwin Brock's posthumous collection,
And Another Thing, published at £8.95 by Enitharmon Press,
36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy - the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

Send or phone for our FREE guide to making a will, today.

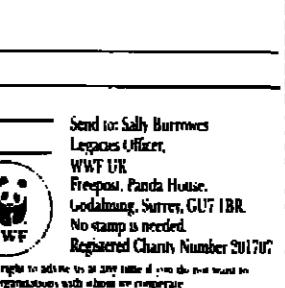
Please send me FREE copy of your guide to Wills and Will-making (allow 28 days for delivery)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Send to Sally Burrows
Legacies Officer,
WWF UK
Freepost, Panda House,
Loddington, Leicestershire, LE12 8BR
No stamp is needed.

Registered Charity Number 207077
Under the terms of the Data Protection Act, you have the right to ask us to tell you if we hold any information about you.



Shirley Bury

IT IS the heaviest printed book I have ever held. It weighs in at 32lb, fills 1,380 pages, is quarter-bound in red goatskin by Cedric Chivers, set in Caslon, designed by Guy Miles Warren, edited by Shirley Bury's great friend Claude Blair, half of it written by Bury herself, and published by the Stationery Office at £1,000 per copy.

Bury spent the last eight years of her life concentrating on this great task, often staying up till five in the morning, such was her obsession with the obscure, fascinating details of royal anatomy and royal meanness.

The Crown Jewels (1998) is the first catalogue of this fabulous collection in nearly a thousand years of history and legend. Bury checked every source she used - there was never anything second-hand or derivative in her scholarly writings - so, characteristically, she wrote too much and took too long. Like many scholars, she could not always see the wood for the trees, but her trees were so dense and interesting that her editors usually gave up in despair and allowed her a few dozen more pages than had been offered.

Here, she spiced her accounts of the coronation ceremonies. Charles II showed what she pitifully calls his "nicely balanced judgement of conciliation and reward" when he created six new earls and six barons. We meet Pepys in Westminster Abbey getting "up into a great scaffold" from which he noted scarlet everywhere. "All the officers of all kinds, so much as the very fiddlers, in red vests."

Bury tells of the royal goldsmith, Robert Vyner, was bankrupted by the King, who never paid properly for his extravagant new regalia, but as a royal servant he was immune from arrest for debt. We wonder with Bury what really happened to the earlier royal regalia when it was "destroyed" under the Republic of Oliver Cromwell. Much later, King William IV, unlike Charles II, wanted to economise for his coronation, so existing furniture was reused with an artistic result defined by Bury as "bold eclecticism". She successfully negotiates the

minefield of who owned who in the period of the Regency, with the eminent goldsmith merchants Paul Storr, Rundell Bridge and Rundell, Hunt and Roskell, all of them making money as well as or better than they made gold. Much later again, we meet King George V who complained of the discomfort of his crown, but nevertheless insisted on wearing it more often than his predecessors. For our own Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, Bury turns to Pepys's successor as gossip extra-

She devoted her whole working life - night and day - to the Victoria and Albert Museum

ordinary. Chips Channon wrote, "I could have watched it for ever." That is how Bury's friends felt about her.

She usually wrote very formal prose, but in this exceptional book she let her hair down and revealed often concealed insights into human nature. Her achievement is not received due credit.

"All researchers have their occasional moments of illumination when a single additional fact begins to make sense of a body of information patiently amassed over a long period." So she wrote in the 1983 *Album of the Victoria and Albert Museum*, to which institution she devoted her whole working life - night and day - from 1948 to 1972. These words may not be so pithy as Pepys, but they might serve as Bury's epilogue. The academic windfall was a Victorian silver teaset of 1851 by Joseph Angell just acquired by the V&A, long known in documents, but



Bury applying finishing touches to an 'International Exhibition of Contemporary Colour Woodcuts' at the V&A, 1954

only now, thanks to Shirley Bury, properly evaluated.

Bury was born in 1925, read Fine Art at Reading University, and soon afterwards joined the Circulation Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which was responsible for travelling exhibitions. In 1960 she completed an MA on the silver trade up to the Industrial Revolution, and the next year became senior research assistant and assistant keeper in the library the year after that.

I first worked with her in the 1961 international artists' jewellery exhibition which I organised at Goldsmiths' Hall. I sensed that her heart did not lie in modern art, despite her love for her eminent modern painter-husband, Morley Bury. But she always wanted to help, and was eager to learn from her. She taught me about the precursors of 20th-century design, like Pugin and Henry Cole.

She loved Pugin at a time when

trivial in the 1960 V&A Yearbook, she records his hatred of half-pears, and his generally hysterical attitudes about ornamental detail. Bury discovered that he had written about a tiny part of a tiny brooch: "I wonder you defend the Brooch, I think the half-pears execrable. I won't have it, it is too horrid... it is a regular Houndsditch affair" (Houndsditch being the workplace for many cheap merchants, then as now.)

In 1967, Bury organised "Copy or Creation" with me at Goldsmiths' Hall, investigating the nature of Victorian church treasures, and I realised what an able sleuth she was; she discovered how everything copied something else, but that these copies were so full of doctrinal passion that they were creations in their own right. The following year she moved to the metalwork department, becoming deputy keeper in 1972.

She began to use words of such

a new awe. For instance, she called

Ramsden and Carr, the British silversmiths of the 1920s, "those abominable". But by 1985 she was using everyday language again, perhaps because, now promoted to Keeper, she had to master the arts of communication. In an elegant V&A booklet on jewels, she dragged in Congreve's agreeable Tattle from *Love for Love*, flourishing his "letters, lockets, pictures and rings" as proof of his sexual conquests.

Bury now preferred jewels to silver, and realised that jewels, though they are art, are also human nature: in another V&A booklet on rings, she records a Roman peacock of the first century AD who wore six rings on each of his hands, night and day.

Bury's most beautiful monument may be the superb jewellery gallery at the V&A, with her fine guide through the centuries. Her most complete achievement is perhaps her big two-volume book *Jewellery* 1789-1910, published in 1991, after she found a new self-discipline, and bravely reduced her initial 27 chapters to a more digestible 17, and jettisoned some 30,000 words.

Her best-kept secret was her love

of her family, which she organised from its centre like Ruth and Naomi in the Bible. A friend once likened her to Dorothy in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, always an influence for good, always showing confidence and faith in everyone. There are very few historians of metalwork and they nearly all know each other. Shirley Bury, with her accuracy and her generosity, was an example to them all.

GRAHAM HUGHES

Shirley Joan Watkin, art historian, born London 27 February 1925; Deputy Keeper, Department of Metalwork, Victoria and Albert Museum 1972-82, Keeper 1982-85; married 1947 Morley Bury (one son); died London 25 March 1999.

Charlie Martin

I don't know why you've come all this way to talk about pulsed power. You've got the father of pulsed power over there'

tant to Sandia as well as an employee of the Ministry of Defence - was that every bit of help he gave US experts was repaid tenfold. His message for the new club was: "Co-operate - even when it hurts you a bit."

He made what must be one of the most open invitations Aldermaston has ever extended to the US: "Please come and talk to us." This was pursued enthusiastically by those seeking help for the US Government's Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars").

Martin himself told this meeting how later the US had come to dominate the technology because its practitioners talked freely about their problems, even when working for rival firms. "Their bosses hate it." His experience - he was a consultant

to power laser and other potential beam weapons, and to test the tolerance of complex electrical systems to lightning strikes, for example. Nuclear weapon designers need pulsed power to provide the energy for flash radiography, whereby they can photograph inside a warhead and verify the way its 2,000 parts have been assembled. It has also been needed increasingly to verify the integrity of the nuclear stockpile since atomic testing was abandoned.

Martin, recounting his Aldermaston years to the Pulsed Power Club in 1995, told how in the early 1950s he heard that Aldermaston had been offered a linear accelerator "for free" but was minded to turn the offer down. At the time his way

lay elsewhere, on designing the polonium initiator for the first UK atom bomb. He moved on to the intrinsic safety of the design - how the bomb would behave in a fire or if dropped inadvertently, for example. Testing was done in the Australian desert at Maralinga.

But young Martin had the foresight to see how valuable the linear accelerator machine could be to weapon designers, and argued his case successfully with Sir William Cook, Aldermaston's director.

A few years later, as a member of the Warhead Hydrodynamics Division, he was given responsibility for the "relatively unloved and understaffed" machine. It became the nucleus of his pulsed power team, and the precursor of a series of big machines delivering increasingly powerful bolts of energy.

The latest, Mogul E, built in the 1990s, is claimed to be the world's most powerful flash radiography machine. Perhaps more significantly, Martin's team soon acquired a reputation for building its machines for a fraction of their equivalents in the US atomic weapons industry.

Martin was a Londoner who read

Physics at Imperial College. He never married but lived in one room at Boundary Hall, Aldermaston, during the normal working week, and in London at weekends. When he began semi-retirement at 65 he settled in Bloomsbury, close to his favourite the

streets, cinemas, restaurants and bookshops. But his wide circle of friends knew that Aldermaston took first place, until he became ill.

He was famous at Aldermaston for a gargantuan appetite. He would often eat two cafeteria dinners in the time others took to eat one. One of his principal recreations was dining with friends, but he never recovered his zest for it after an operation a year ago, for cancer of the oesophagus. He inspired great love and affection in countless friends, from his cleaner at Boundary Hall to Edward Teller, foremost US weapon designer, who called him "his scientific son".

Charlie Martin's careful hus-

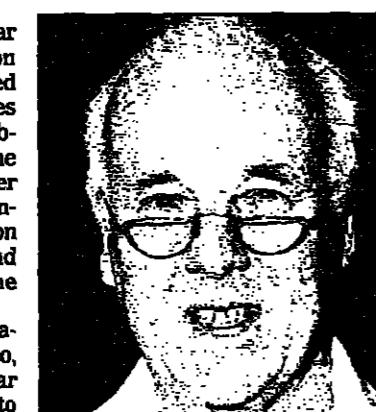
bandry of public monies - his "string-

and-sealing-wax" approach to experiment - was reflected in his personal life. Although generous to friends, he had little interest in personal possessions, including clothes, which he tended to buy in bulk. He

holidayed in the eastern Mediterranean - Greece, Turkey, Egypt - usually combining snorkeling with study of their archaeological treasures.

DAVID FISHLOCK

John Christopher (Charlie) Martin, nuclear weapon designer, born London 21 September 1926; Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority 1974-86; CBE 1989; died London 22 March 1999.



Major Donald Henderson

MEN SUCH as Donald Henderson are always rightly referred to as bomb disposal experts - they have to be expert if they are to survive.

The profession is relatively new. In the Great War bombs were fairly simple and most exploded on impact; it was not until the Second World War that the race began between experts in delayed action fuses. The Admiralty eschewed the phrase as long as possible; in 1940 and 1941, mines were rendered safe and RMS (Rendering Mines Safe) officers only gradually turned to bombs; disposal of the arisings was assumed. By the time that Henderson emerged with the post-war members of his trade, Nato was grappling with its linguistics, and "unexploded ordnance disposal" became the order of the day.

Henderson was awarded the George Medal for his disarming of

the Marsham Street bomb in 1975, placed outside Lockett's Restaurant in Westminster where several MPs were dining. He disarmed the bomb, consisting of 25lb of explosive accommodating several pounds of coach bolts, with less than four minutes to spare (though he did not know how much time he had).

Henderson perhaps deserved a higher honour: he was congratulated by the judge at the trial of the terrorist group known as the Balcombe Street Gang; there had also been the Christmas of 1974, during which season of peace and goodwill he was called to 72 incidents in eight days. And in 1971 he had dealt with a bomb secured beneath Lady Beaverbrook's car, where it had been intended to explode as the heating-up exhaust pipe fired a simple charge.

He survived not one but two

years of retirement, albeit often interrupted when his advice was needed. He was born in 1921 into an army family stationed at Dover; where he went to the local grammar school. In 1937 he joined the Territorial Army, serving in the Royal Engineers throughout the war from 1939 to 1945, finally in Burma and then in occupied Germany. It was then that he specialised in the techniques of ammunition and was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps; his skills took him to troublesome places like Aden, Cyprus and Korea.

At home his increasing experience of the criminal use of explosives in safe blowing commanded his

the police; his accumulation and presentation of evidence was of great importance in securing several convictions, and it was suggested that after 17 years in the post-war Army, he might consider moving "to the aid of the civil power". Accordingly he resigned his commission in 1964 and, with a contemporary, Major Geoffrey Biddle, became a civil servant, Head of the new C72 Branch of the Metropolitan Police, one of its most enlightened and successful appointments. There he was to serve for another 17 years. Biddle was also to receive the George Medal for defusing a bomb beneath the ministerial car of another ex-serviceman, Edward Heath.

Henderson's increasing technical knowledge and its skilled application were much in demand. He was a regular lecturer to the American FBI and to sundry elements in the Ministry of Defence and other government departments; he supervised the security cover of the wedding of the Prince of Wales.

He was a quiet, reserved man, of



five brave blue stripes is tied for full-dress civilian wear.

A. B. SAINSBURY

Donald Victor Henderson, bomb disposal officer, born Dover, Kent 12 December 1921; GM 1975; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Hornsea, Lincolnshire 30 January 1999.

Jumabek Ibraimov

JUMABEK IBRAIMOV'S rule as Kyrgyzstan's prime minister was brief. Already ailing when appointed to the post by President Askar Akayev on 25 December last year, Ibraimov had to withdraw from day-to-day work two months later for an operation in Moscow for stomach cancer. He tried to return to work in late March - when government officials said he was healed - but soon succumbed.

In Kyrgyzstan, a small mountainous republic of what used to be the Soviet Union's empire in Central Asia, bounded by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China, politics most resembles a revolving door, with a small elite constantly reshuffled at the president's whim.

Before becoming prime minister, Ibraimov had held a number of senior posts. He was appointed mayor of the capital, Bishkek, in January 1993, and from January 1995 he was State Secretary to President Akayev, effectively his chief of staff. In March 1996 he was named an adviser on economics to the president and his Plenipotentiary Representative to the People's Assembly, the upper house of parliament.

Failing health caused Ibraimov to take a year off from public life, but he returned in December 1997 as Chairman of the State Property Fund, a job that carried the rank of minister. As growing incompetence and corruption enveloped the government at the end of last year, Akayev sacked the whole team, bringing in Ibraimov to clean up. Akayev compared his new prime minister to the Russian incumbent, Yevgeny Primakov, who was a personal friend of Ibraimov.

As prime minister, Ibraimov tried

to bring in new mechanisms for

preventing corruption and promoted

further privatisation to boost the sagging economy which had been

hard hit by last August's financial

crash in Russia. But Ibraimov was

not in office long enough to have

much of an impact.

Born into a peasant family in Kemin district of Kyrgyzstan's northern Chui Region, Ibraimov was trained as an engineer. In 1960, after completing secondary school, he started work as an apprentice locksmith in a factory in the capital, then called Frunze. In 1963 he entered Frunze Polytechnic Institute, though his studies were interrupted for army service in the airborne troops, based near the Russian town of Tula.

From August 1971 he took further postgraduate studies, then worked as a lecturer in the machine-building faculty of Frunze Polytechnic Institute. In 1976 he took a special course at the Machine-Tool Construction Institute in Moscow. He worked in a Frunze agricultural machine factory before moving to a factory in Rybachy in north-eastern Kyrgyzstan in January 1977 of which he later became director.

In 1985 he transferred to Communist Party work. That December he was appointed as First Secretary of the party in Rybachy. In January 1988 he moved into the senior ranks of the Kyrgyzstan party when he became First Deputy Head of the Department of Organisational Party Activity of the Central Committee. In March 1991, he became Second Secretary of the party in Chui region.

In November 1991, just when the Soviet Union was on the brink of disintegration, Ibraimov was appointed deputy chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

Like many Communist officials he turned to business in the post-Soviet era, becoming director of the Janash joint-stock company in 1992. He was later chairman of the board of the Kyrgyz national airline. However, he remained in politics, being twice elected to parliament.

FELIX CORLEY

Jumabek Ibraimovich Ibraimov, politician; born Jany-Alyk, Soviet Union 1 January 1944; married (four children); died Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 4 April 1999.

Lionel Bart

YOUR OBITUARY of Lionel Bart by Tom Vallance, 5 April was right to point out his tendency towards self-destruction, writes Professor Barry Fantoni. There were so many instances but one in particular should be put on record, as it concerned a stage during his career when his popularity was at a low ebb and a real chance to revive it was on offer.

Sometime during the Seventies John Wells and I wrote a musical based on his life, which featured all his best-loved songs. The show was called *Lionel* (no exclamation marks) and opened at the theatre where *Cats* now plays. The final curtain on the first night was greeted with much warmth and plenty of applause. It looked certain for a run. Then Lionel was asked up on the stage for a few words. They were: "This is the worst show I have ever seen. Don't bother coming to see it." No one did and Lionel closed after eight weeks.

Barbara Dockar-Drysdale

BARBARA DOCKAR-DRYSDALE was the last survivor of that influential band of mid-century contributors to the advancement of therapeutic understanding and care of children in Britain whose work was crucially shaped by their involvement with wartime evacuees.

The other three, Anna Freud, John Bowlby and Donald Winnicott, came to this experience already trained as psychoanalysts. This particular clinical perspective influenced how they saw bereavement, separation and interruption of family life affecting the child, and what the desirable remedies were. Unlike them, Dockar-Drysdale came to therapeutic child work largely innocent of theory. Yet her therapeutic legacy deserves to stand alongside theirs, or, at least, to be seen as complementing it.

She was brought to a gradual realisation of the importance of understanding and responding to the inner world of the child through her own experience of family bereavement (she lost her much-loved father, Thomas Gordan, Professor of Surgery at Trinity College Dublin, when she was just 15, then as a young adult by the practical experience of ordinary child care and motherhood).

This led her towards an interest in childhood psychopathology, but first and foremost she was a woman of action. The popularity of her writings with social workers and educationists derives from the sense that her clinical observations spring from her work in situation and with experiences like her own.

In 1955 Dockar-Drysdale began her childcare career without any special training by running a village playgroup in Blewbury, then in Berkshire (now in Oxfordshire), with a friend. She discovered she had a knack of understanding small children and resolving their difficulties and tantrums without recourse to the usual nostrums of the time – of ignoring, making the child stand in the corner, or remonstrating with the child or its parents. She was popular and appreciated. Word spread about her success with particularly troublesome children.

The following year she married Stephen Dockar-Drysdale and moved to Radley, nearby, where he was farming. By the outbreak of the Second World War she was sufficiently well-known as one who “understood” children to become involved with the emergency evacuation programme in Berkshire.

Her house in Radley (the first Home Farm, and then, when her husband joined the Army, a large Victorian house in the village), where by now she was bringing up her own small children, doubled as a home and a school. Not just toddlers, but some of the most intractable youngsters gravitated to her household, and stayed. The combination seemed unpromising, but proved fruitful.

She came to recognise through direct experience rather than theory the basic similarities between the disruptive and aggressive displays of an unloved or abandoned teenager and the ordinary petulance of the distressed infant who might be afraid, however unrealistically, of the absence of its mother; she also realised that, if the older child’s panic attacks were to be alleviated (for this is



When Jill, a withdrawn child aged seven, came to the Mulberry Bush School, she drew two squiggles on a piece of paper. What were they, Barbara Dockar-Drysdale wondered?

Jill: A pair of socks they are... baby's socks... one was lost.
BD-D: I am so very sorry - how cold the baby's foot must have been.
Jill: Yes, they took her into a room with an electric fire and a television, but it wasn't any good.
BD-D: She needed the lost sock?
Jill: It has never been found... will she ever find it?
BD-D: I am afraid not. I wish it could be so.
Jill: Is there anything that could be done?
BD-D: Well, there is one thing which occurs to me. Could you perhaps learn to knit, and then you could knit another sock for the baby - but this would be very difficult, you would have to find a pattern and the right wool, and someone to help you to do it. There would be dropped stitches, and you might even lose the knitting and have to start once more.
Jill: I would like to come to you, and learn to knit.

from *The Provision of Primary Experience* (1990)

how she saw them), he would need to experience the sustained reassurance of a reliable parent figure, one who did not reject and abandon him whatever the provocation.

These wartime experiences, and the lessons she learnt from them, in due course became embodied in the therapeutic philosophy of the Mulberry Bush School, which was founded formally in 1948, opening not far away in Standlake at the invitation of the Home Office. She ran the school with her husband for the next 16 years. Later she became its Therapeutic Adviser before, in 1969, turning her attention away from the emotional casualties of primary

school-age children towards their adolescent counterparts.

She teamed up with the psychologist Richard Balbernie, who had recently

begun to turn around a decaying and decadent approved school in Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, helping him to run it on therapeutic lines similar to those she had pioneered at the Mulberry Bush, with an emphasis on the development of close therapeutic relationships in a community setting and the provision for regression and what she called “primary experience” – the recovering of lost child-hood containment and contentment.

Her last 20 years of therapy, consultation and writing were centred on this

work at the Cotswold Community. Like the Mulberry Bush it has continued to survive the changes in childcare thinking and practice, particularly the changed emphasis in the last two decades on family as distinct from institution-based therapeutic care. The continuing vigour of these establishments is testimony to her therapeutic resourcefulness in finding creative ways to meet and mend the deficiencies stemming from failures in the earliest bonding between mother and baby in a non-family setting, one resilient enough to cope non-punitively with the inevitable quotient of acting out entailed in such a programme.

Not content with founding and directing a special school, Dockar-Drysdale became times trained as an individual psychotherapist, in which capacity she worked closely with Donald Winnicott among others. She also lectured and published three volumes of papers. *Therapy in Child Care* (1968), *Consultation in Child Care* (1973; reprinted with the first as *Therapy and Consultation in Child Care*, 1993) and *The Provision of Primary Experience: Winnicottian work with children and adolescents* (1990). Though sensitive to the implied criticism that her therapeutic enthusiasm outran her judgement in that the parlance of psychoanalysts “she wasn’t sufficiently trained”, she had studied assiduously the works of Anna Freud, August Aichorn, and Winnicott especially.

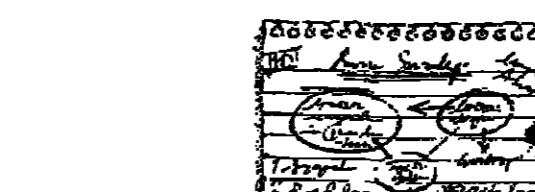
Dockar-Drysdale was generous with her ideas, and had the gift of drawing out the therapeutic potential of colleagues in ways which also enlarged them personally. Above all, she was sensitive towards children and their experiences, without being sentimental about them. She respected the reality of their capacity to suffer, a respect which freed her from illusions about the child’s own considerable capacity to cause suffering in another and in the adults responsible for them. Her writings show that it is possible to identify and to treat the future psychopath, provided intervention comes early enough and is appropriately based (which does not necessarily mean being family-based).

She also showed that debates about “treatability” are as much to do with the adult world’s willingness to pay the (human) price, as about the causes or reversibility of the original disorder. At a time when the therapeutic potential of community-based treatment for youngsters was more readily countenanced than it is today, Barbara Dockar-Drysdale’s was a voice that was heard and heeded in childcare circles.

Perhaps as the problems of childhood and adolescence seem to multiply before our eyes, whilst the solution to them continue to elude us, her work will be found to have a continuing relevance.

CHRISTOPHER BEEDELL

Barbara Estelle Gordan, psychotherapist: born Dublin 17 October 1912; married 1936 Stephen Dockar-Drysdale (died 1996; two sons, two daughters); died Fairford, Gloucestershire 18 March 1999.



ASTRONAUTICAL NOTES

ADRIAN BERRY

Rip Van Winkle with compound interest

OF ALL tales of folklore remembered in future ages, the best known will be the story of Rip Van Winkle. It tells of a man who aged only one night while the rest of the world aged 20 years. And it will be remembered because it is going to come true.

Rip, it will be recalled from the fable told by Washington Irving in 1819, was a thrifless, hen-pecked husband who knew in advance about the properties of magic mountains. Suppose that before climbing the mountain he had invested £100 at compound interest at a rate of 11 per cent – a reasonable rate to expect since he would undertake not to touch it for 20 years. On his return he would find that his capital had appreciated by 800 per cent. Together with his original investment, he would now have £900 in his pocket.

When he woke the following morning, his gun was rusty and his dog had vanished. On descending to his village, he found that everyone he had known was dead (including, to his relief, his nagging wife). Two decades had passed. A war had been fought. He had gone to sleep.

While researching this exercise 10 or more times he would become vastly richer than Bill Gates. By the end of the 20th century, he would be only 12 days older, but his village would be 240 years older. His original £100 would by then have turned into more than £7 trillion.

Instead, imagine a man

who invests part of his money at compound interest, goes off to Alpha Centauri with a large party, establishes a thriving colony there, and returns alone to collect his accumulated wealth.

Being now extremely rich and still relatively young, he can finance a second expedition to another star, and so on. Einstein’s discovery will have created a new kind of capitalist.

Adrian Berry is the author of *The Giant Leap: mankind heads for the stars* (Headline, £18.99)

Royal invitation

confirms accord

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

8 APRIL 1989

The Queen has been invited to visit the Soviet Union. Anthony Bevins and Rupert Cornwell report

we intend to modernise our weapons unless we are forced to do so,” he declared.

The announcement of what will be a hugely symbolic event came as Mikhail Gorbachev ended a packed 36-hour visit with an informal lunch with the Queen amid the splendour of Windsor Castle. It confirmed both the close personal and political relationship between himself and Margaret Thatcher, and their different views on nuclear deterrence – above all the need for Nato to modernise its short-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

After what Mrs Thatcher described as a truly remarkable visit by “a man of destiny”, she said there was no question of getting rid of nuclear weapons. The modernisation programme would go ahead, and Mr Gorbachev’s announcement on the curtailment of Soviet production of weapons-grade uranium would “have no effect in practice”.

Speaking at the airport before his return to turbulent domestic politics, and indications of new nationalist unrest in Georgia, Mr Gorbachev proclaimed his “great satisfaction” with what had been achieved in London. But he warned that, if Nato went ahead with plans to modernise, it would jeopardise the road for us.” Tests and trials lay ahead, “but we have chosen definitively and irrevocably the route to new forms of life”.

As well as the announcement of an end to Soviet production of enriched weapons-grade uranium, and the closure of plutonium reactors, Mr Gorbachev disclosed that total Soviet troop strength at the start of this year was only 4.3 million, well below Western estimates of 5.1 million or more.

After implementation of the unilateral cuts of 500,000, announced last December, Mr Gorbachev claimed that Soviet troops would number 3.76 million in all, compared with a US strength of “more than three million” and a navy more than twice the size of Moscow’s. “Fears of the Soviet military threat are groundless,” Mrs Thatcher, who was invited to make a return visit to Moscow, said she was very happy at the prospect of a state visit by the Queen: “There will be tremendous advantages which will indicate the warmth in the relationship.”

But the most positive line taken by Mrs Thatcher was her fierce support for the process of perestroika. She said that, following his political reforms, Mr Gorbachev had turned to the more difficult task of economic reconstruction in a country which had not had a free market for 70 years.

As for the main Gorbachev initiative of the day, Mrs Thatcher said that the Soviet Union already had a “sufficient” stockpile of uranium, which would increase as SS20s and other missiles were dismantled. She repeated her view on nuclear deterrence, saying: “Strong and sure at the moment means also nuclear.” On Nato modernisation of short-range weapons, Mrs Thatcher said: “Obsolete weapons do not deter... The Soviet Union has just completed its programme of modernising short-range nuclear weapons. We have not yet started upon ours. I think we should complete it.”

Front-page story from *The Independent*, Saturday 8 April 1989

GAZETTE

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

BIRTHS

HELM / POWELL: On 31 March, at the Royal Free Hospital, to Sarah and Jonathan, a daughter, Rosamind Yolanda, a sister for Jessica.

DEATHS

PECK: Bob, died after a long illness, on 4 April, aged 53. He will be sadly missed by his wife Jill and children Hannah, George and Millie. The funeral service will take place at St John’s Church, Speen Hill, Wimbleton, on Wednesday 14 April at 11am, followed by private cremation. No funeral donations to be made to Magic Fund, 01925 812400, or FW Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AW. Telephone 0181 546 4813.

WILES: John, died peacefully on the Easter Monday after a long illness. Much loved and greatly missed by his many friends. Funeral service at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Gath Road, Morden, on 13 April at 2pm. Memorial service immediately afterwards at the Pavillion, Raynes Park Sports and Social Club, Raynes Park, London SW20. Flowers or donations to any cancer research charity or the Macmillan Nurses.

IN MEMORIAM

PEAKE: 3 April 1999. Harry John, GDE, Headmaster, Bilsborrow Grammar School 1857-65; Principal, Sheffield City College of Education 1865-75. Dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Kofi Annan Secretary-General, United Nations, 61; **Professor Sir John Arbuthnott**, Principal, Strathclyde University, 60; **Mr Tony Banks** MP, Minister for Sports, 56; **Mr Hywel Bennett**, actor, 55; **Sir Andrew Bowden**, former MP, 63; **Mr Graham Burton**, High Commissioner to Nigeria, 58; **General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley**, 75; **Mr Julian Lennon**, rock musician, 36; **Alie Commandant Dame Alice Lowrie**, former Matron-in-Chief, PMRAFNS, 94; **Miss Carmen McRae**, jazz singer, 77; **Mrs Mary Moore**, former Principal, St Hilda’s College, Oxford, 69; **Mr Gaird Morrison**, chairman, East and Midlothian NHS Trust, former Chief Scout, 56; **Miss Virginia O’Brien**, actress and singer, 78; **Mr Peter Rogers**, chief executive, ITC, 53; **Mr Michael Sachs**, High Court judge, 67; **Mr Charles Saunders**, former film director, 95; **Mr Ian Smith**, former prime minister of Rhodesia, 80; **Mr Alec Stewart**, cricketer, 36; **Sir Thomas Thomson**.

ROYAL
ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales visits Lochmaddy Surgery, North Uist, Western Isles; opens the Bernera Causeway linking North Uist to Bernera in the Western Isles; joins members of the Bernera Lewis. The Duke of Kent.

community for a reception at the Community Centre and then presents the “Lord of the Isles Trophy” to the winning team of the Shinty Mini Festival; visits the Taigh Chearsaig Arts Centre at Lochmaddy, North Uist; and visits the Iron Age settlement at Bernera, Isle of Lewis. The Duke of Kent.

Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, visits Rolls Royce, Filton, Bristol, and Hewlett-Packard, Bristol. Princess Alexandra attends a reception and lunch, to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer’s Disease Society, at the Café Royal, London W1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen’s Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen’s Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. band provided by the Scots Guards.

WITH “NIGGARDLY” outlawed in Washington, the BBC has banned Welsh, as in to renege on an agreement. Its origins are obscure. A 19th-century betting term, it corrupted from the almost onomatopoeic Welsh. The OED overlooks the parallel with the German Welsh, foreigner, and also the American noun.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

welsh, n.

Meanwhile, will the BBC transmit *Henry V* again, or *Decline and Fall*?’s headmaster Dr Fagan concludes that “the Welsh are

the only nation in the world that has produced no graphic or plastic art, no architecture, no drama. They just sing, sing and blow down wind instruments of plated silver. They are deceitful because they cannot discern truth from falsehood, deceived because they cannot discern the consequences of their indulgence.”

Does a split home spoil a child?

Simon's 10-year-old son divides his time between his mother's household – materialistic and liberal – and Simon's more strict and frugal home. Each parent has a new young family. The boy is behaving like a "spoiled brat": should he stay with one parent?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

In some people's houses you can arrive late, get drunk and swear, watch the telly and eat grapes on the carpet. In other people's houses you arrive on time, say please and thank you and drop them a grateful line the next day. And you can enjoy each experience equally, but in different ways.

So I don't think it's Simon's rigid rules that are making his son so bolshie. It's because the rules are ones that always involve the use of the word "no". OK, the child can't watch violent films or buy trendy trainers at Simon's. But does Simon offer any amusing alternatives? Excellent board-games? Snooker? Carpet bowls? If not, no wonder the chap's sulky.

Then I wonder if the boy's not treated, along with Simon's young family, as "one of the kids". There's a great difference between a 10-year-old and a five-year-old. And no doubt the boy's not particularly crackers about his step-parents or, yet, his younger half-siblings. They're all living and breathing evidence of the split between his parents. Are special concessions made to Simon's son so that he feels he's older, more grown-up, more

sophisticated? Does Simon ask if his son would like his friends to stay him out on his own to do son-and-dad things? Does he go out of his way to make his son feel special and wanted?

I know that I'm sounding a bit "all a child wants is a piece of string, a bent pin and a pond and he's happy" as Larry-ish, but most boys when they are faced with the choice of a video or a fishing or camping trip with their dad would voluntarily choose to go on the expedition.

If Simon made the effort, he could make his home, frugal and strict as it is, every bit as interesting and entertaining an environment as his ex-wife's. If his son is behaving like a "spoiled brat" it's because he's angry and unhappy at Simon's. And Simon's pejorative interpretation of his behaviour can hardly make his son feel wanted.

And perhaps Simon doesn't realise that now is probably the time when his son wants to feel less "stateless". Maybe he'd like a base: a single phone number where he knows his friends can reach him. Living in two houses is rather like living in hotels. I bet he'd like to have one room where he can keep all his favourite

things and feel safe and private. Not two.

The answer is, of course, to ask the boy what he'd like to do, and to do it in a way that doesn't sound as if he's not loved or wanted. Simon could say to him: "Look, I realise you're getting older now. I'd love to have you living here all the time, and I know your mum would love to have you living with her all the time. I'm not asking you to choose, but would you like it if you made your base at mum's, and then come over to ours when you want? I have a feeling you'd like to start making your own decisions a bit. Would you like to come here every other weekend, say, but if you feel like coming every weekend that's fine, or if one month you only want to come one weekend then that's fine, too? Or do you like things as they are? And so on.

In other words, don't ask me, ask him. Treat him like a responsible boy who's growing up very quickly and he'll behave reasonably. Treat him like he's a spoiled brat and it should be no surprise that he responds in the same way.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Two households can be good. It would be most unfair of Simon to stop his son spending time at his son's mother's home. The experience of two markedly different home environments has probably had significant effects on his son, but these can be positive and negative. By the age of 10 their son has experienced most aspects (good and bad) of both parents and step-parents, and their differing home environments. At worst he is probably as confused and spoilt as he can be. However, he has also benefited from experiencing two different lifestyles.

JOHN BEALE
London

Such behavioural problems are common amongst children in split families. Regrettably they are often worse when the father spends shorter periods of contact with the child. You should certainly not consider backing out of your son's life. He is about to enter a crucial stage in his development.

TONY CROFTS
Witney, Oxon

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
I divorced my husband 15 years ago because, although he was a marvellous father, he couldn't stop belittling me, criticising me and trying to make me his slave. I spent the time alone reasonably happily, had a couple of affairs, but recently re-met my husband who's moved to Spain after a heart attack. I suddenly realised that I was still in love with him. We've even discussed getting back together again, but he told me, very kindly, that he couldn't have sex any more.

Now sex is very important to me. One orgasm and I'm happy for a week. Do you think I could get a younger lover? I think my husband would accept the situation, but I'd prefer to keep his existence to myself. Do you think this would be a good idea?

Yours sincerely, Alex

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet.

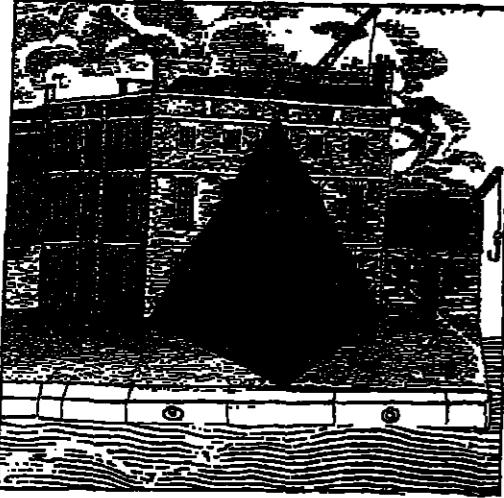
POETIC LICENCE

THE GRIMY WONDERS OF THE WORLD

BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

A handful of Britain's old industrial sites have been nominated for World Heritage status this week. Liverpool waterfront, the Blaenavon industrial landscape and parts of the Paddington to Bristol railway may now rank alongside the Taj Mahal and the Pyramids.



The old industrial spectres rattle
Heavy chains on Pennine scars
And groan to be forgiven
By the grey-black grimy hills.
But among those mines and mills
Lay the forge of western wealth
Where the lesions healed slowly
If at all, until by stealth.
Time and nature petrified
The iron mastodons and rust,
Rain or ruin dragged the monsters
Down to rubble, shale and dust.

And dirty docks and hulking wharfs
Which witnessed sailing ships come in
Saw holds picked clean by locust cranes
Heard hoists and hawsers creak and keen
While in the country in between
The thrumming ports which burgeoned then
And reeking towns, huge gangs of men
Built long canals which served as veins
To feed their filthy throbbing hearts
Until the coming of the trains.

With Cornish tin, Mancunian cotton
Sheffield steel, and Stafford plates
And everything the British made
The tables of the world were laid

Now all these towers
And blackened walls
Great edifices leering down
Those bridges built by engineers
Their soot-thick girders linking town
With latticed iron to other town
Will have to do for pyramids
Our Hanging Gardens, Colossi
A last remaining memory
Of times when giants strode the land
And what we had...
Was industry.

Daggers drawn as Black Leather Jackets take on the Blue Rinses

Stay away from the crime-writers' AGM tonight. It'll be absolute murder. By Jane Jakeman

The sedate surroundings of the New Cavendish Club, just behind Marble Arch in the West End of London, may soon witness a deadly conflict. The opponents are all experts in murder weapons, from the stud-nailed boot to the slim, Italian dagger.

Tonight, at their AGM, the 450-odd members of the Crime Writers Association will vote on whether their current silver-haired Chairman (the chosen term, irrespective of sex) should hand over the reins of authority. Janet Laurence is a writer of "civilised" crime stories about art and food, and a former *Daily Telegraph* food columnist. Her challenger is Ian Rankin, author of gritty murder fiction in tough settings. Should the vote go against her, it would symbolise a transfer of power not only from one generation to another, but from a style that has been dominant since the foundation of the CWA in 1953 to a new kind of crime-writing.

The truth is that the CWA embraces two uneasily co-existing parties, which we might for convenience's sake describe as the "Black Leather Jackets" and the "Blue Rinses". Sporadic warfare has been going on between the two factions for some years. "Really, the whole thing is septic," says one black leather-trouser-suited author, Gillian Linscott, whose suffragette detective, Nell Bray, is an unexpectedly tough cookie in petticoats. "For a small association, the CWA can be terribly quarrelsome."

The argument is not just about two types of crime-writing, but two elements of British culture. The "Blue Rinse" is the traditional detective story, usually set in a village, featuring middle-class investigators and barely noticeable violence. As a style, it rose to glory in the golden age of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L Sayers, and still has a strong following, currently showing in the work of writers such as Caroline Graham, whose recently televised *Midsummer Murders* featured the usual cast of vicars and spinster-of-this-parish. In the traditional novel, the focus is on the detective – often an amateur sleuth or an unwordly policeman – rather than on the psychology of the perpetrator. The Baroness PD James is probably the most literary and respected current practitioner of the genre, but there has been a sense of critical unease for some time now that her books are out of touch with modern life.

The Black Leather faction write tough novels of the underworld and its drug culture, the world of *Cracker* rather than of *Juliet Bravo*, with lots of psychopathology and puke in the stairwell. It is reckoned to have some of the best contemporary writers, such as Nicholas Blincoe, Val McDermid and Ian Rankin. Its supporters give it a mainstream cultural



Ian Rankin (left) and Janet Laurence encapsulate the clash of cultures among Britain's crime-writers

Photo (left): Susan Burrell

identification as the British version of the French cinema's *noir*, a Chiaroscuro world in urban settings, usually run-down inner slums or bleak housing estates. Manchester has taken a distinctly Celtic turn, sometimes known uneasily as Tartan Noir. Rankin's Inspector Rebus operates in Edinburgh, prize-winning newcomer Denise Mina's *Garnet Hill* is set in the even tougher environment of Glasgow. There's a political take on the division, too, at the last CWA dinner, Ruth Dudley Edwards, author of several crime novels of the traditional "Caper in the Cathedral Close" type, and *Spectator* columnist, tried to interrupt a speech by Michael Mansfield QC, who was addressing the assembled crimestoppers on the seemingly inflammatory subject of human rights.

The debate has actually been coming to the boil for a couple of decades. Mike Ripley was one of the early supporters of *noir*. "The CWA didn't acknowledge the existence of a new wave of crime writing," he says. "I see it as a vehicle for fiction about contemporary life – though that may not be life as the CWA knows it!" Ripley is the crime reviewer for the *Daily Telegraph*, so do his readers share his taste? "Oh, yes, my readers love hard-boiled crime," he says. "In fact, their tastes in that direction are stronger than mine," which gives an interest-

ing insight into the leisure activities of *Disgusted*, Tunbridge Wells.

But Ripley's objection is less to the failure of the Association to reward new writing. There are certainly awards, a plethora of Daggers, handed out since the CWA was founded by John Creasey in 1953: the Macallan Gold Dagger for Best Crime Novel of the Year formerly the Crossed Red Herrings Award, the Silver Dagger, the Dagger in the Library. Most con-

cerns Blincoe feel bitter against the old guard? "I've got over it all now," he said cheerfully. "Anyway, I enjoy hanging out with the old ladies. I like their sartorial style – I think tweeds and twisets are terrific. As for Janet Laurence – I'd never call her a Blue Rinse. She's a Silver Fox – gorgeous!"

But the quarrel isn't just about style; it has other resonances and, this being Britain, the leading one is class. It came to the fore in 1995 when PD James was accused by Chaz Brenchley

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Want to teach your graduate trainees a lesson? Send them to Lapland. By Kate Hilpern

A steep learning curve



Overcoming unlikely tasks in an unlikely setting can help staff to develop their own skills and also encourage team understanding

A waiting my flight at Heathrow last week alongside nine strangers with whom I was expected to "team-build" over the next four days, I felt scared. It's one thing learning about individual strengths, compensating for weaknesses and improving interpersonal skills in the safe environment of an office. But it's quite another when it's beyond the Arctic Circle where snowmobiling is the chief means of transport and temperatures are as low as -20C.

Nevertheless, an increasing number of graduate recruits are experiencing assessment, development and training in extreme climates. Team Dynamics International - a British company which runs such trips - claims the latter half of the Nineties has seen a huge growth in bookings abroad. "Employers have one of three objectives," explains Colin Wallace, director. "First, they use the trips as a recruitment tool. After all, graduates don't have a track record and many employers want another something other than interviewing and psychometric testing to reveal for sure true characteristics. Second, the trips are a method of deciding what role would suit the graduate once they've been recruited. Third, they are a means of team-building." Additionally, of course, it's a perk -

a way for an employer to say: "We value you." Finnish Lapland, for instance, is one of the world's most untouched and exotic regions. One participant asked me: "Where else are you likely to go this year in which a single afternoon incorporates visiting a husky dog farm, playing snow golf, reindeer sleighing and eating in an ice restaurant?"

The bonus for the firms themselves is that it's not much more expensive a location than Scotland or the Lake District.

But are such trips more than a jolly? Even our first morning (8am start after arriving at the hotel at 3am - a theme to be repeated throughout the weekend, although often through choice) suggested they must be.

A series of indoor projects based on tactics for survival - including one exercise involving decisions over how to stay alive in an avalanche - demonstrated that teams consistently made sounder decisions than individuals, even where experts were present.

With this in mind, we were deemed ready for the harsher environment outside, although one last indoor assignment - completing the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator questionnaire - revealed the best and worst each of us would be likely to bring to any given team. For my team, the results were particularly interesting, since we all had the same profile of being extrovert

rather than introvert; feeling rather than thinking and perceiving rather than judging. The result? We threw ourselves into the afternoon's tasks (getting a team member on top of 14 crates balanced on ice without touching him, and hoisting a team member up a tree while the rest of us were blindfolded) with enthusiasm, taking mistakes in our stride, and ignoring time-management.

"All good fun," laughed our co-ordinator afterwards. "But what if

We all agreed that experiencing the dramatic exposed our best and worst sides

you worked on a company project in that way?"

Indeed, every group activity over the ensuing days included a review process so comprehensive that each of us was forced to analyse every participant's behaviour and relate it to the office. How could we make our enthusiasm more productive? What individual qualities could be worked on to balance the chaos of the way the group worked?

But can such lessons be learned in any location? Kumud, a course participant, believes not. Having

attended other programmes back in England, she says: "The surreal surroundings allow the imagination to think that anything is possible. Also, the clean air and feeling of altitude is lifting."

We all agreed that experiencing the dramatic exposed our best and worst qualities in a way that astounded us and that it rapidly increased the speed of the bonding process. After all, you quite literally "need each other" even to walk across flat ground where the snow is deep. You are also forced to recognise that other people's qualities which you may have initially considered weaknesses could in fact be valuable. I, for instance, hate being hurried at the cost of a good result, but realised a sense of urgency can be useful.

"Being so far away from home gives you the rare opportunity of taking off your baggage," adds Kumud. "In some cases, that's just inhibition or pressure and problems from work that you often bring with you to a training programme."

Where else would you find your self dancing to an Abba medley on the stage of a cheesy night-club called Doris with people you'd only just met and had every intention of trying to impress?

The activities for the latter half of the trip appeared, at first glance, to be "just for fun". We shed ourselves of our team badges and rode off on snowmobiles, husky dogs, rally cars,

quad bikes and reindeer. A reward for all our hard work? Not so, says Mr Wallace. "It's a way of improving self-motivation and self-confidence. There's bound to be some of those activities that scare you, and if you wind up going for it and getting over that fear, it gives you an sense of achievement and shows your potential. And because everyone notices that about everyone else, it builds up confidence between the team members."

It also has the effect of ensuring people don't feel their every move is under scrutiny. Mind you, we were undoubtedly more relaxed than during the more formal team exercises - something that co-ordinators were aware of and so they secretly checked out our responses and characteristics from time to time.

And it works a treat. Several times, a few of us took one look at an activity and shrieked: "No way!" But on at least half of those occasions, because of the unfamiliar surroundings as well as a lack of conviction, we found ourselves coming round to the idea and achieving the unthinkable.

The programme is for the graduates and is about helping them to realise their own strengths, acknowledge their weaknesses and how to tackle those," concludes Jackie, a participant. "Not least is the fun element and, of course, to make a mistake in this environment is simply to learn from the experience."

It's boring at the top

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

The problem
I AM 40 and have been in the "fast track" career lane since I completed an MBA. I decided to specialise in telecommunications as I was attracted to a fast-moving growth industry where my strategic thinking and hunger for challenge would be satisfied. Indeed, for the past five years, I have worked in a management capacity for a successful telecoms company where I have had access to excellent training and development programmes and will soon have the option to work internationally. I don't, however, feel much job satisfaction. I have responsibility but would like greater variety. I also get tired and distracted by office politics and I don't think that I have the patience to continue to "play the game" in order to move into the highest echelons of the corporate ladder. I am completely open minded about possible options as I thrive on the challenge of change. Have you got any suggestions?

DAVID HELMSLEY, BRISTOL

you have low structure needs typical of entrepreneurs. The telecommunications and information systems areas both continue to experience considerable growth and you might like to consider your own business idea. If you would prefer to remain within an organisation, then consultancy might be worth exploring. Creativity and acting as a change agent are central skills required by the well-known consulting houses. The big hitters mostly recruit fresh MBAs but your sector-specific expertise may be attractive. Another option, which I can personally recommend and which provides a great deal of variety, is executive development itself. Our business relies on ideas and we aim to develop people and their organisations through innovative management practice. City University Business School is highly international with just under 50 per cent of staff and 65 per cent of our students coming from outside the UK, adding greatly to the intellectual environment.

James Gill, managing consultant, Sanders & Sidney plc, career consultants, Regent Arcade House, London W1V 1AA, says:

Why, after achieving so much, are you not obtaining job satisfaction? A simple form of self-appraisal should help you discover what's missing. Identify your achievements and rank them in order of importance to you. Analyse which of your jobs you have enjoyed most and decide on your preferred work roles. List your full range of transferable skills, technical, management and personal. Then look at life goals. Where are you now? Where do you want to be in five years' time? These exercises will stimulate your thought processes and you can start brainstorming possible job options. Finally, start talking to and extending your list of personal contacts. This research should surely discover a suitable outlet for your skills. An added bonus will be your meeting some very interesting people on the way and building a valuable network for the future.

INTERVIEWS BY CARMEN MIDDLEITCH

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Middleitch, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2068; or e-mail c.middleitch@independent.co.uk

Covering the cost of the Millennium bug

Solicitors' insurers are braced for claims arising from the year 2000, but can't find out how badly they are exposed. By Grania Langdon-Down

MORE THAN 3,000 solicitors' firms have still to fill out questionnaires detailing the precautions they have taken against the millennium bug, even though they risk a hefty fine.

So far, about 65 per cent of the 9,500 firms sent the forms by the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF), which provides solicitors with compulsory professional indemnity insurance, have returned them.

Reminder letters are to be sent out shortly to the rest, as the fund needs to assess its potential exposure to millennium-related claims before it decides what the contributions should be for the year from September 1999.

The questionnaires were sent out in December in response to last summer's decision by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, that SIF, unlike most other insurers, would have to cover any claims against firms arising from year 2000 claims.

Solicitors are likely to be exposed on two fronts: by failure in their own systems leading, for instance, to missed court deadlines, and by failure to take account of Y2K problems when advising clients - a firm being taken over might turn out not to be millennium-compliant.

SIF, unhappy that the profession as a whole should foot the bill for those firms which have failed to take reasonable precautions, decided to find out just what measures firms have taken as a way of determining

exposure. SIF rules impose an obligation on practitioners to ensure that all computer systems which they use or rely on are Y2K compliant and that appropriate advice is given where Y2K issues arise. If those obligations are not met, the fund has discretion to claw back part or all of any claims it meets.

Firms which do not return the questionnaire could have to pay a "penalty contribution" of a minimum of £3,000, or 10 per cent of this year's insurance premium if it is more than £30,000. The answers, or lack of response, could also influence how much the SIF will recover if a firm is subject to a claim.

However, the definition of Y2K compliance in the questionnaire's notes has run into problems with the British Standards Institution (BSI). The SIF version amends the accepted BSI definition, and the institution has suggested the fund should withdraw the questionnaire because it is concerned that solicitors may rely on the amended definition when giving advice to clients.

SIF spokeswoman Sharon Bolton said: "We would be equally concerned if we felt solicitors were relying on the amended version when giving advice to clients. That was never the intention behind the amendment. Our objective was simply to clarify our guidance notes and we are in discussion with the BSI to see how those concerns can be ad-

dressed." She said the whole insurance industry was still "feeling its way" about the millennium issue. The fund had not yet received any Y2K-related claims but she said: "We have to set a contribution and to do that we need information. If we can give a message, it is that we want our interests as much as ours."

There has been uncertainty over the future of the fund. Its monopoly is being challenged from within the

profession, despite the decision by the Law Society earlier this month that it should stay to guarantee consumer protection.

Ms Bolton said: "It would be a nonsense not to send the form back because of some possible litigation about the fund in the future. The millennium issue is not going to go away."

SIF is still considering how it should raise the money to pay for any millennium-related claims. One way

would be through an added percentage put onto the contributions paid by the profession as a whole.

"Another way would be to put a higher deductible, or excess, on millennium-related claims, according to a firm's gross fees, regardless of how prepared they are. This would make the process more precise and would not preclude us from using our powers to recoup greater proportions of claims if we felt a firm had been negligent. How-

ever, using higher deductibles in this way would require a change to the rules," Ms Bolton added.

Barristers have to insure themselves through the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund. Stephen Hockman, QC, chairman of the Bar Council's practice, management and development committee, said there were no plans for higher contributions or deductibles.

"We have been working in close collaboration with the two main software providers to chambers. Since it is in the suppliers' as well as chambers' interests to achieve any updating, we are fairly confident that the necessary arrangements are in place."

Adam Taylor, a partner at Withers, specialises in legal aspects of Y2K. He found SIF's questionnaire "tricky". While it was difficult drawing up a questionnaire to suit everyone from a one-man band to a big City law firm, he felt some of the questions were unclear and the options for answers were limited.

"There was no scope for explanation. I wonder how clear a picture it is going to give," he said.

Mr Taylor believed claims against solicitors would centre on when they should reasonably have been aware of Y2K issues and taken them into account. That date would have to be set by test cases but was likely to be some point in 1997 when millennium issues started receiving

HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST MILLENNIUM CLAIMS

There are practical steps that solicitors should be taking to protect themselves against claims that are related to the millennium bug.

The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund rules impose extensive obligations on solicitors to take Y2K into account in all matters when advising clients.

Firms should ensure that their staff, particularly those dealing with transactional work, are fully briefed on the problem.

When it comes to solicitors' own systems, audits should have been completed or at least be well underway. If not, firms will have to prioritise the work because time is running out.

That means looking at the systems which will cause the most problems if they fail - word processors, telephones, account systems, debt collection programmes, case management systems. It is also important to check the computer systems covering the building itself - security, lifts, and air conditioning are all at risk.

Adam Taylor of Withers said: "There is no time left to haggle with landlords or computer suppliers over liability. The work has to be done now. However, it is also very important to protect yourself in case you need to take action later. For example, check legal time limits on bringing a

claim as these could run out before 2,000.

"In many cases, suppliers are offering Y2K upgrades, frequently at a price and frequently at a very high price. There may be a case to say the user shouldn't pay for those upgrades because they were not supplied with a satisfactory system in the first place.

"You may have to go ahead and get the upgrade but, at the same time, reserve your rights under your existing contract so you are not acquiescing in any breach of contract there may have been."

"But, remember, the priority has to be achieving compliance."

extensive media coverage. Mr Taylor said cases were starting to come to court in the US, but he would advise clients here to consider other ways of resolving any disputes - such as mediation - as a way of keeping time and costs down, while at the same time protecting their legal position.

CEDR, the Centre for Dispute Resolution, launched its Millennium Accord initiative in December, with the emphasis on "timely dispute prevention rather than retrospective redress". It has already successfully acted as mediator in two millennium disputes.

In one case, a company was suing a supplier after it turned out that it had been sold software which was not Y2K compliant. There was £40m at stake.

The two parties settled after two and a half days of mediation. They had previously spent 16 months in litigation. The cost of CEDR's services was £18,750 per party, with the defendant estimating a financial saving of between £750,000 and £1.5m and a six-month saving in senior management time.

Taylor said: "I don't think solicitors are more vulnerable than any other professions to Y2K claims. However, there is definitely a potential exposure for those who do not take Y2K into account when they advise clients. There are no excuses for that now."

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Depression Alliance is a rapidly growing charity providing information, advice and support to people with depression and their carers. As part of this development we are looking to appoint a

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Job-share considered

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The rapid development of our groups network has precipitated a new post to support our groups co-ordinators. The main role is to support our network of group organisers by providing administrative back-up at our head office. We are seeking a person with good communications and organisational skills, some office experience and an interest in mental health.

For further details of both the posts above and an application form, send a A4 SAE to:

The Director, Depression Alliance,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.
The closing date is 26th April.

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GENERAL

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THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

NEW FILMS

BEYOND SILENCE (12)

Director: Caroline Link
Starring: Sylvie Testud, Howie Seago
Caroline Link's fine domestic drama (Oscar-nominated in 1997) revolves around the dynamics of the uncommon German household headed by able-bodied Lars (played by Tatjana Trifas) as a child, Sylvie Testud as an adult, who acts as a representative for her deaf mum and dad (Emmanuelle Laborit, Howie Seago). Unshowy acting and a keen eye for telling detail help to keep the sentiment at bay.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre

BLAST FROM THE PAST (13)

Director: Hugh Wilson
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Alicia Silverstone, Sissy Spacek, Christopher Walken
Less than a faint pop, Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire sees Brendan Fraser's last American man (called Adam, natch) emerging from the nuclear bunker that his parents (Christopher Walken, Sissy Spacek) had hopped up in during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Trouble is, of course, that the Bomb didn't get dropped, and California is still there (albeit in radically altered form). So off goes bewildered Adam through this brave new world, soon finding a sassy Eve in Alicia Silverstone's knowing Valley Girl, as a decent set-up nosedives into brash predictability.

West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12)

Director: Charles Laughton
Starring: Robert Mitchum
Conceived by its creator as "a nightmarish sort of Mother Goose tale", Charles Laughton's 1955 drama (his only stab at directing) proved altogether too rich and strange a brew for the neat, Formica tastes of McCarthy era USA. Now an acknowledged classic, *The Night of the Hunter* hinges on a legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert Mitchum as the tale's murderous preacher: LOVE and HATE tattooed across his knuckles, and chasing two imperilled orphans (Billy Chapin, Jane Bruce) into the arms of Lillian Gish's saintly fairy-godmother. What might have been a run-of-the-mill thriller is conjured into the realms of fantasy by Laughton's skewed child's-eye view. His Old Testament bombast and a ripe storybook style best evidenced in the kids' otherworldly trip downriver: This is a haunting, wholly unique thing; a mescal hillock sung over an empty crib.

West End: Curzon Soho, Repertory: The Pullman Everyman.

PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15)

Director: Jake Scott
Starring: Robert Carlyle, Jonny Lee Miller
Plunkett and Maclean (Carlyle and Lee Miller) are rakish Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. They rob the rich and keep the loot. Plunkett packs a pistol and scowls a lot. Maclean romances a shapely debutante (Liv Tyler). Their adventures come choreographed to a thumping techno beat. And yet beneath all the powder, the frills, the ruffles and the wigs, *Plunkett and Maclean* is a pretty plain-looking customer, shuffling along on a puny prop of a plotline that gets increasingly bent out of shape. As a substitute, director Jake (son of Ridley) offers noise, colour and virtuous pop-provo visuals, while leaning heavily on the winning chemistry between his two stars re-united from *Trainspotting*. Ultimately, it's Carlyle and Lee Miller that keep it palatable.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)

Director: Franco Zeffirelli
Starring: Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, Judi Dench, Cher
Zeffirelli's clearly been at the Chianti again. His *Tea with Mussolini* is a typically squiffy and loquacious affair, ambling around the houses during its tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. One senses that somewhere deep down in his consciousness, Zef has some points to make about fascism and about the contrast between British fortitude and Yankee grit (represented by Cher's vital American vamp). But just as he seems to be bearing some thematic breakthrough, *Tea with Mussolini* turns all syrupy again. The scenery slips into a golden haze. The dialogue turns sturred and drippily incontinent. The acting goes off into a series of mannered ticks the starts, twitches and adjustments of a body already half-asleep.

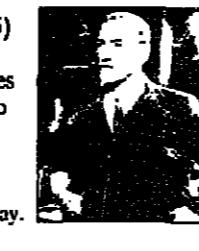
West End: Barbican Screen, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Hampstead ABC, Richmond Odeon Studio, Streatham ABC, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen, right), who is magnetised by the form of his gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

**Pleasantville (12)**

Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty parable about prejudice and change.

Festen (15)

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak Oscar-winning study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad – James Coburn (Best Supporting Actor).

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play (right) about accommodations with conscience is revived in an immaculate and sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

**Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London)**

The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer – man and symbol – in all his complex contradiction.

The Late Middle Classes (Palace Theatre, Watford)

The fruitful collaboration between Simon Gray and Harold Pinter continues with the latter's production of Gray's dark comedy set in 1950s England. To 10 Apr

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

Troilus and Cressida (Oliver, NT, London)

This play and this theatre are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep of Trevor Nunn's production. To 19 May

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

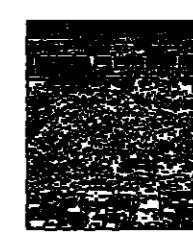
Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power, women as exquisite *mlanges* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr

Henri Michaux (Whitechapel Gallery)

He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by grief and messiahs, he created amazing, wobbly bobbily scribbly fine-grain line drawings. To 25 Apr

**Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)**

Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world – stock-exchange floor, cityscape (right), hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)

The short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with his masterful blacks and whites and his uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)
A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide and conversion of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton). West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MIGHTY JOE (PG)
Disposable Disney fluff – King Kong with a smile – with a ready charm that's hard to dislike. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18)
Rumbly revenge thriller that sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to retrieve the money he's owned and to get even into the bargain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-502 0403) \ominus Leicestershire Square/Piccadilly Circus/Jessells der Stille 1, 4pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTEBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) \ominus Leicestershire Square/Tottenham Court Road, Arlington Road 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.04pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWITZERLAND (0870-902 0401) \ominus Piccadilly Circus/Jessells der Stille 1, 4pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) \ominus Tottenham Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm, 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 12.45pm, 2.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

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HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) ♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill Aarzoo 1.30pm, 5pm International Khatli 8.45pm Jaanam Samha Karo 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill American History X 9.40pm Arlington Road 5.40pm, 8.40pm Blast from the Past 12.30pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 9.50am, 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm Jack Frost 11.30am, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 2.30pm, 4.40pm Patch Adams 9.20pm Payback 10.20am, 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.20pm, 3pm, 6.10pm The Prince of Egypt 10.50am The Rugrats Movie 9.30am, 12.30pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 4.10pm, 7.90pm, 9.50pm The Thin Red Line 9.10pm Waking Ned 1.50pm, 4.60pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Holloway Road Arlington Road 8.40pm Blast from the Past 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.15pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

ILFORD

ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Gants Hill A Bug's Life 1.20pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 7.40pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 3.40pm, 5.10pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.15pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate A Bug's Life 12.55pm Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.15pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.50pm, 4.60pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM

ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Gants Hill A Bug's Life 1.20pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 7.40pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 3.40pm, 5.10pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.15pm, 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.50pm, 4.60pm, 8.50pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Richmond Madeline 12noon Payback 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR/♦ Romford Arlington Road 8.10pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm Payback 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

STAPLES CORNER
ODEON LIBERTY (08705-050007) BR/♦ Romford Antz 10.15am Arlington Road 12.50pm, 5.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 10.15am Blast from the Past 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm Payback 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare in Love 5.30pm, 8.05pm Small Soldiers 10.15am Waking Ned 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

STRAFTORD
NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 336) BR/♦ Stratford A Bug's Life 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Below the Belt 1.20pm, 3pm, 5pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR/♦ Streatham Hill Blast from the Past 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) ♦ Surrey Quays American History X 6.50pm, 9.40pm Arlington Road 6.30pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Madeline 12.30pm, 2.50pm Mighty Joe 10.45am, 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Payback 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm The Rugrats Movie 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Tea with Mussolini 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 8.40pm La Vita è Bella 8.30pm Waking Ned 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm

SUTTON

UCI (0990 888990) BR/♦ Sutton American History X 6.50pm, 9.40pm Arlington Road 6.30pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Madeline 12.30pm, 2.50pm Mighty Joe 10.45am, 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Payback 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm The Rugrats Movie 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Tea with Mussolini 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 8.40pm La Vita è Bella 8.30pm Waking Ned 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm

THEATRE
WEST END

SWISS COTTAGE
WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) ♦ Finchley Road Arlington Road 6.15pm, 8.50pm Blast from the Past 11am, 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm, 8pm A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm Madeline 11.45am Mighty Joe 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm Payback 2pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

UXBRIDGE

ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Uxbridge Arlington Road 8.40pm Blast from the Past 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

WALTHAMSTON

ABC (0870-902 0424) ♦ Walhampton Central A Bug's Life 1.25pm Payback 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

WALTON

ABC (0870-902 0424) ♦ Walton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Wimbledon A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

WILLESDEN

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Willesden A Bug's Life 1.25pm Payback 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

WILLIAMS HILL

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Williams Hill A Bug's Life 1.20pm Payback 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

WILTON

THE SCREEN (01932-25285) BR/♦ Wilton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

WILTON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Wilton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

WILTON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Wilton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

WILTON

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WILTON

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WILTON

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WILTON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Wilton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 8.25pm

WILTON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/♦ Wilton-on-Thames The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.

THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

RADIO 1
97.30MHz FM
6.00 Zoo Ball: 9.00 Kevin Greening.
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Steve Warren. 4.00 - 5.00 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
98.90MHz FM
6.00 Sarah Keeney. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.00 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Bob Harris Country. 8.00 Paul Jones.
9.00 Take It Easy - California Cool.
9.30 The News Huddles. 10.00 The Alan Price Show. 10.30 Richard Alison. 12.00 Mo Dutta. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
102.92MHz FM
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week. Britten. (R)

1. DAY AT THE NATIONAL
National and amateur football. The National Theatre
events Entertainment Today
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Nicola Heywood Thomas introduces a recital given last year. Josie Roffin (piano) plays preludes to fugues by Bach interspersed with some classic rags by Scott Joplin (R).

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 The Piano.
5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Timothy Hugh (cello). BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Come Vanska. Macmillan: The Confession of Isobel Gowdie. Walton: Cello Concerto.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
92.4-94.6MHz FM
6.00 Today.
9.00 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.
9.30 Automatic for the People.
9.45 Serial: Just William - the 80th Anniversary.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour. See Pick of the Day.

11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 My Uncle Freddie.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Open Country.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

and trust between Estonians and the ethnic Russian minority.

Mayoral Chain (5pm R4) traces the troubled history of London, from medieval times to the current plan for the first elected Mayor. Contributors include Lords Patrick Jenkin, Kenneth Baker, Ken Livingstone (right) and Lord Levene, the 672nd Lord Mayor of the City.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



9.40 French Piano Music for Four Hands Faure: Dofy Suite, Op 56. Kafta and Marielle Labèque (piano).

10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of 18th-century French chamber music from the time of Louis XV, including Leclair's large-scale suite 'Premiere recration de musique', specially recorded by the Hanover-based ensemble Musica Alta Ripa.

11.00 Night Waves. Greek mythology and 20th-century industrial policy come together in Tony Harrison's first fiction feature film 'Prometheus'. In a Yorkshire village, where the country's last pit is about to close, the pit manager is revealed as a modern-day Hermes sent by Zeus to punish mankind. Paul Allen talks to Tony Harrison about using mythology to interpret modern life and writing dialogue in rhyming couplets. Plus a report on the fifth British Art Show, which opens in Edinburgh.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(93.909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ian Payne.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Wembley. The Church of Football. Tom Watt presents a four-part footballing history of Wembley Stadium. 1: The White Horse Final.

9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.

10.00 NEWS: The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

2.45 Afternoon Play: Woman of Ice. 3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours: 0800 010 0444.

3.20 Radio 4 Appeal.

3.30 What's Yours is Mine. (R)

4.00 NEWS: Nica Work.

4.30 The Material World.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 That Reminds Me.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.35 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme.

7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady. By E M Delafosse, dramatised by Jane Rogers. The everyday 30s journal of how to run a house, a husband, a cook, a nanny, two children, bother some neighbours, irritating relatives, and still manage to keep your sanity and your green fingers. With Imelda Staunton and Richard Hope. Director: Clive Brill (R).

8.00 NEWS: Mayoral Chain. Nigel Wrench looks at the new form of government about to be established in London - the fourth such attempt this century. Is it impossible to govern the capital city? See Pick of the Day.

8.30 Agenda: Dennis Sewell assesses the state of politics at the start of the campaign for next month's elections.

9.00 NEWS: Leading Edge. Stories from the cutting edge of science. Geoff Watts reports on the highlights of the British Psychology Society's annual conference in Belfast.

9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.

10.00 NEWS: The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Robert Harris' bestselling thriller is read by Alan Howard. By Robert Harris. Papu Rapava knows where the notebook is, but there is more than one person on his trail (4/10).

11.00 NEWS: Do Go On. A six-part comedy series that uses the format of a live radio discussion programme to take an original look at media absurdity. With Ainsley Elliot and his guests: 2: 'Art'; With Griff Rhys Jones; Graeme Garden and Melanie Hudson.

11.30 Your Place or Mine? (R)

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Earthly Joys. 12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ian Payne.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Wembley. The Church of Football. Tom Watt presents a four-part footballing history of Wembley Stadium. 1: The White Horse Final.

9.00 NEWS: Leading Edge. Stories from the cutting edge of science. Geoff Watts reports on the highlights of the British Psychology Society's annual conference in Belfast.

9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.

10.00 NEWS: The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

watch West Ham play Bolton on 28 April 1923, including updates on Chelsea's game in the Cup Winners Cup in regular sports bulletins through the evening.

8.00 Inside Edge: Rob Bonnet investigates sporting issues.

9.00 Hoops: Fat Freddie M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene.

9.30 SportsShop: Trixie Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.

10.00 Late Night Live: With Nick Robinson. incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night:

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1010MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin: 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. Conductor: Adrian Boult. Britten: The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Vaughan Williams: A London Symphony (Symphony No 2). LPO. Wagner: Siegfried Idyl. LSO.

7.35 Chakovsky: Overture 'Roméo et Juliet'. LPO. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today: 1.30 The World. 1.55 My Century. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Westway. 2.45 Performance. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 World Business Report.

3.45 Insight: 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today (13.30-7.00).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Charlie Catchpole and Nick Ferrar. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 The SportZone. 7.45 Chelsea v Real Mallorca. 10.00 James Whale.

12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

Qe7 30.Qb8+ Kg7 31.Rg1 Kh6

32.Bd3 Rd7 33.Qg8 1-0

For all that, the game of the round was surely Judit Polgar's explosive attacking victory against Viswanathan Anand. In a different and considerably madder Najdorf line, she initially sacrificed both knights though one was soon regained. In a game Wedberg v Novikov Copenhagen 1991 Black deferred the capture on c3 with 13...Qc7 14.Bd3 Nc5 15.Bc4 dxc3 16.Bxc3 Nf6 and later won easily but of course Judit must have had improvements ready.

If 23...Nc4 24.Bc4 Nxe5 25.fxe5 is also very dangerous since White threatens 26.f5 and the attempt to repeat with 25...Qg5 (25...f5?? 26.e7? wins) 26.Qh3 Qh6? the has to try 26...Qe8 27.Bf5! loses to 27.Qxh6 Bxh6 28.e7 Res 29.Rxd6 Bg7 30.Rf7.

White got a massive bind and after 26.Bd5! soon won the piece back by force. Fantastic stuff!

Judit Polgar v Viswanathan Anand
Dos Hermanas 1999 (Round 1)

"Sicilian Najdorf"

1.e4 c5 18.f4 Qb6
2.Nf3 d6 19.Qg3 Qh6

3.d4 cxd4 20.Rd6 f6

4.Nxd4 Nf6 21.Bd2 e4

5.Nc3 a6 22.Bc4 b5

6.Bc3 e6 23.Bet R7

7.g4 e5 24.Rc6 a5

8.Nf5 g6 25.Bc3 Rb7

9.g5 gxf5 26.Bd5 Rb8

10.exf5 d5 27.Rc7 b4

11.Qc3 d4 28.b3 Rb5

12.0-0-0 Nbd7 29.Bc6 Rxf5

13.Bd2 dxc3 30.Rxe8 Rxce

14.Bxc3 Bg7 31.Bxd7 Rcc5

15.Rg1 0-0 32.Bxf5 Rxf5

16.Qxf5 Qxf5 33.Rdi Kg8

17.Qe3 Kh8 34.Qg2 Kh1 1-0

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

ANYONE WHO thinks gambling offers an easy way of life is seriously mistaken. Just how badly mistaken can be seen in a new television programme entitled *Winners*, which shows a trio of the best poker players in the country in action: David Moseley, Dave "Devil Fish" Ulyett and Surinder Singh.

